



# REGIONAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 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

Progress information on the Implementation of the Roadmap's Goals and Overall Targets:

*1 January – 30 June 2025*

ROADMAP GOAL 1.....	6
Progress information on Goal 1 Overall Targets.....	6
<b>BELGRADE</b> .....	6
<b>PODGORICA</b> .....	10
<b>PRISTINA</b> .....	13
<b>SARAJEVO</b> .....	16
<b>SKOPJE</b> .....	26
<b>TIRANA</b> .....	30
ROADMAP GOAL 2.....	35
Progress information on Goal 2 Overall Targets.....	35
<b>BELGRADE</b> .....	36
<b>PODGORICA</b> .....	41
<b>PRISTINA</b> .....	43
<b>SARAJEVO</b> .....	45
<b>SKOPJE</b> .....	52
<b>TIRANA</b> .....	54
ROADMAP GOAL 3.....	57
Progress information on Goal 3 Overall Targets .....	57
<b>BELGRADE</b> .....	57
<b>PODGORICA</b> .....	64
<b>PRISTINA</b> .....	69
<b>SARAJEVO</b> .....	74
<b>SKOPJE</b> .....	83
<b>TIRANA</b> .....	87
ROADMAP GOAL 4.....	97
Progress information on Goal 4 Overall Targets .....	97
<b>BELGRADE</b> .....	97
<b>PODGORICA</b> .....	100
<b>PRISTINA</b> .....	103
<b>SARAJEVO</b> .....	105
<b>SKOPJE</b> .....	112
<b>TIRANA</b> .....	115
ROADMAP GOAL 5.....	119
Progress information on Goal 5 Overall Targets .....	119
<b>BELGRADE</b> .....	119
<b>PODGORICA</b> .....	121

<b>PRISTINA.....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>SARAJEVO .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>SKOPJE .....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>TIRANA .....</b>	<b>128</b>

## List of abbreviations

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BP	Border Police
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CIP	The Commission internationale permanente pour l'épreuve des armes à feu portatives
EC	European Commission
EMPACT	European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats
EU	European Union
EUCOM	United States European Command
EULEX IPCU	EULEX International Police Cooperation Unit
Europol	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
Eurojust	The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
WAE	Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosives
FBiH	Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina
FFP	Firearms Focal Point
FRONTEX	The European Border and Coast Guard Agency
iARMS	INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records, Tracing Management System
Interpol	The International Criminal Police Organization
ITA	Indirect Taxation Authority BiH
JAD	Joint Action Day
MoD	Ministry of Defence
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MOFTER	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MOSAIC	Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RACVIAC	Centre for Security Cooperation
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SEE	South-East Europe
SEEFEN	South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center
SIENA	Secure Information Exchange Network Application
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency BiH
SOCTA	Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures

---

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

---

## ROADMAP GOAL 1

By 2030, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region (KPI 1).

<p>Roadmap Overall Targets:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as counter trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations.</li> <li>2. Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production and possession for civil use and counter trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors in line with the EU regulatory framework.</li> <li>3. Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production and trade as well as counter illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations.</li> <li>4. Ensure compatibility and standardization of arms, ammunition and explosives control relevant legal frameworks across the Western Balkans.</li> <li>5. Regularly exchange good practices with a specific focus on harmonization of the legal framework with the EU Regulatory framework and other international obligations.</li> </ol>
<p>Progress information on Goal 1 Overall Targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laws and bylaws regulating weapon, ammunition, and explosive (WAE) control;</li> <li>2. Harmonization of the legal framework on WAE control with the EU Acquis;</li> <li>3. Compliance with the UN Firearms Protocol;</li> <li>4. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.</li> </ol>

## BELGRADE

### 1.1 Laws and bylaws regulating weapons, ammunition, and explosives

#### *Guiding questions:*

What are the laws and bylaws regulating:

- 1) production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as countering trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition.
- 2) production and possession for civil use and countering trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors.
- 3) production and trade as well as countering illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment?

1) Laws and bylaws regulating weapons and ammunition are as follows:

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette, Nos. 20/15, 10/19, 20/20 and 14/22).
- Rulebook on the Deactivation of Weapons;
- Rulebook on Training in Handling Firearms,
- Conditions for Carrying Out the Repair and Modification of Weapons and the Trade in Weapons

and Ammunition;

- Rulebook on Spatial and Technical Requirements for the Safe Storage and Safekeeping of Weapons and Ammunition;
- Rulebook on the Manner of Keeping and the Forms of Records of the Competent Authority on Weapons as Provided for by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition;
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Issuing, the Form and Content of Forms and Documents on Weapons as Provided for by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition;
- Rulebook on Records Kept by Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs;
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Lending Weapons,
- Rulebook on Determining the Medical Fitness of Natural Persons for the Possession and Carrying of Weapons, which, in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, was adopted by the Minister of Health.
- Rulebook on the Manner of Performing State Border Surveillance and on the Manner of Issuing, the Form and Content of Acts Prepared by Police Officers When Performing State Border Surveillance Tasks (Official Gazette No. 48 of 22 June 2018) was adopted in accordance with the Law on Border Control (Official Gazette, No. 24/18) and regulates the transfer of legally owned weapons across the state border.
- Rulebook on the Procurement, Possession and Carrying of Weapons for the Personal Security of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Serbian Armed Forces (Official Military Gazette No. 28/2021, 25/2023, and 42/2023), regulates the procurement, conditions for carrying, handling and safekeeping of personal weapons by members of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces.
- Instruction on the Manner of Handling Weapons, Ammunition and Explosive Substances Found at the Crime Scene by Authorised Officials was adopted on 20 May 2022. An integral part of this Instruction is the Protocol for Securing Weapons Found at the Crime Scene, which was adopted at the same time.
- Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 87/18);
- Rulebook on the Manner of Performing Checks During Testing, Marking, Individual Testing or Type Approval of Weapons, Type Control of Ammunition, Testing of Deactivated Weapons and Weapons Whose Purpose Has Been Permanently Changed to Civilian Use, as well as the Appearance and Designation of Stamps (Official Gazette, No. 113/20 and 11/23),
- Rulebook on the Format of Records Kept by the Agency for the Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 54/21).

### 2) Laws and bylaws regulating explosives (including pyrotechnics) are as follows:

- Law on the Trade in Explosive Substances (Official Gazette, Nos. 30/85, 6/89 and 53/91; Official Gazette, Nos. 24/94, 28/96 and 68/2002; and Official Gazette, No. 101/2005 – other law).
- Law on Explosive Substances, Flammable Liquids and Gases (Official Gazette, Nos. 44/77, 45/85 and 18/89; and Official Gazette, Nos. 53/93, 67/93, 48/94, 101/2005 – other law, and 54/2015 – other law).

### 3) Laws and bylaws regulating production and trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment are as follows:

- Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment (Official Gazette, No. 107/14);
- Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette, No. 19/25); The new Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods is fully aligned with EU Regulation 821/21
- Law on the Production and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment (Official Gazette, Nos. 16/18 and 36/18).
- Decision on the Establishment of the National Control List of Arms and Military Equipment (Official Gazette, No. 24/25);
- Decision on the Establishment of the National Control List of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette, No. 69/25).
- Rulebook on the Manner of Issuing and the Form of Licences for the Production of Arms and Military Equipment, the Criteria for Assessing the Fulfilment of Conditions for Production, the Manner of

Entering and Keeping the Register of Producers and the Manner of Keeping Records on Licences (Official Military Gazette No. 11/19)

- Decree on the Transport of Arms and Military Equipment (Official Military Gazette No. 20/97)
- Rulebook on the Procurement, Possession and Carrying of Weapons for the Personal Security of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Serbian Armed Forces (Official Military Gazette No. 28/21, 25/23 and 42/23).
- Rulebook on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in the Ministry of Defence and Serbian Armed Forces (Official Military Gazette No. 8/18)
- Law on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Official Gazette, Nos. 104/2016, 83/2018, 95/2018 – other law, and 10/2019 – other law)
- Criminal Code (Official Gazette, Nos. 85/2005, 88/2005, 107/2005, 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014, 94/2016, 35/2019 and 94/2024).

## 1.2 Harmonization of the legal framework on weapons, ammunition and explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors with the EU Acquis

### *Guiding question:*

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of *your jurisdiction's* legal framework on weapons, ammunition, and explosives control with the EU Acquis? Please indicate all relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period, indicating the progress in each stage below and timelines for future steps:

- Drafting: initiation or continuation of drafting new legislation or amendments through established working groups, inter-institutional bodies, or similar mechanisms.
  - Review: internal or inter-institutional review, public consultations, expert analysis of proposed legislation, or review by the European Commission.
  - Adoption: formal adoption of legislation or its submission to the relevant parliamentary or governmental bodies, including the current status of the adoption process.
- On 20 December 2024, Serbia officially acceded to the Permanent International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms (Commission Internationale Permanente pour l'Epreuve des Armes à Feu Portatives – C.I.P.). At the beginning of 2025, Serbian delegation to the C.I.P. organisation was elected. The Delegation consists of the **Director of the “Agency for the Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition”** and two members representing companies engaged in the production of weapons and ammunition.

### *In drafting process:*

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition: Adoption of the new Law is planned for 2026. By a Decision of 17 September 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior established an internal working group to prepare a working version of the Draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition. In the first half of 2025, the internal working group of MoI held meetings and consultations and prepared a working version of the text of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition, which will serve as the basis for the work of an intersectoral working group planned for the second half of the year.
- Following the adoption of the new Law, the by-laws will also be amended, including those in the area of deactivation. In connection with the OSCE project activity relating to support for the development of the normative and institutional framework for the deactivation of SALW, a meeting was held with representatives of the MoI and the Agency for the Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition in Kragujevac on 19 May 2025. A second visit by representatives of “BNE” has been announced for 3 and 4 July 2025.
- Law on Explosive Substances: The drafting of the Draft Law on Explosive Substances, which will regulate the production and trade of explosive substances for civilian use and pyrotechnic devices, has been completed. The planned deadline for its adoption is the fourth quarter of 2025.

In adoption process or adopted:

- Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods: In March 2025, the Parliament adopted the new Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods. At the same time, both Decisions establishing the National Control List of Arms and Military Equipment and the National Control List of Dual-Use Goods, both aligned with EU lists, were adopted. The previous Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette, Nos. 95/13 and 77/19) has now been replaced by the new Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods, aligned with EU Regulation 821/21.

### 1.3 Compliance with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The UN Firearms Protocol)

*Guiding questions:*

Are 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance of *the criminal code with the UN's Firearms Protocol*? (Please indicate the progress in each stage of drafting, review, adoption).

- Serbia ratified the UN Firearms Protocol in 2005 and the Arms Trade Treaty in 2014.
- Criminal offences of illicit manufacturing, trafficking and falsifying of firearms, ammunition and explosives are defined as criminal offences under the following Articles of the Criminal Code and relevant law:
  - **Article 347** “Manufacturing and Procurement of Weapons and Means Intended for the Commission of a Criminal Offence” of the Criminal Code prescribes that whoever, for the purpose of committing a criminal offence, manufactures, procures, or enables another person to obtain weapons, ammunition, explosive substances or mine-explosive devices, as well as the means necessary for their manufacture or poisons, shall be punished by imprisonment of one to five years.
  - **Article 348** “Unauthorised Production, Possession, Carrying and Trade in Weapons and Explosive Substances” of the Criminal Code, prescribes that “whoever, without authorisation, manufactures, modifies, sells, procures, exchanges or possesses firearms, convertible or deactivated weapons, their parts, ammunition, explosive substances or mine-explosive devices, shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years and a fine. If the object of the offence under paragraph 1 of this Article is firearms, ammunition, explosive substances, mine-explosive devices or means based on explosive substances, or gas weapons whose manufacture, sale, procurement, exchange or possession is not permitted to the general population, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment of one to eight years and a fine. If the object of the offence under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article is a larger quantity of weapons, ammunition or means, or if it concerns weapons or other means of great destructive power, or if the offence is committed contrary to the rules of international law, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment of two to twelve years. Whoever, without authorisation, carries the objects which are the subject of the offence under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be punished by imprisonment of two to twelve years. Whoever, without authorisation, carries the objects which are the subject of the offence under paragraph 1 of this Article and has an authorisation from the competent authority for their procurement and possession, shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years. The weapons, their parts, ammunition, substances and means referred to in paragraphs 1–5 of this Article shall be seized. Therefore, this Article is fully aligned with Article 5(1)(a) and (b).
  - **Article 40** of the Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition, prescribes that “whoever, without authorisation, tests, stamps or marks weapons, devices or ammunition shall be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years and a fine. The weapons, their parts, devices, ammunition and means intended for the commission of the

- offence under paragraph 1 of this Article shall be seized”.
- Article 41 of the same Law prescribes that “whoever, with the intention of using them as genuine, makes false stamps or markings for testing, stamping and marking of weapons, devices and ammunition, or whoever, with the same intention, alters genuine stamps or markings, or whoever uses such false or altered stamps or markings as genuine, shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment of up to three years. The stamps or markings referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be seized”.

*In review process:*

- The Ministry of Justice prepared a Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code, which, inter alia, amends the existing criminal offence under Article 348 of the Criminal Code (Unauthorised Production, Possession, Carrying and Trade in Weapons and Explosive Substances) and, it breaks down this single offence into three separate criminal offences. The Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code was the subject of a first round of public consultation in October 2024, and, following a further round of public consultation and the obtaining of an opinion from the European Commission, its adoption is planned by the end of 2025.

## 1.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested such support? If received, please specify from whom.

- Serbia requires support primarily for the further harmonisation of its legislative framework with EU regulations, through expert assistance, as well as for the fulfilment of other internationally assumed obligations. The field of explosive precursors, which is not yet regulated but it is planned to be addressed in the forthcoming period, remains a need.
- Support has been provided by the competent international and regional organisations through joint projects in this area.

## PODGORICA

### 1.1 Laws and bylaws regulating weapons, ammunition, and explosives

*Guiding questions:*

What are the laws and bylaws regulating:

- 1) production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as countering trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition.
- 2) production and possession for civil use and countering trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors.
- 3) production and trade as well as countering illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment?

1) Laws and bylaws regulating weapons and ammunition are as follows:

- Law on Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 10/15).
- Rulebook on the Conditions for the Production, Sale, Repair and Modification of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 43/2015).
- Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 70/03, 13/04, 47/06, 40/08, 25/10, 32/11, 64/11, 40/13, 56/13, 14/15, 42/15, 58/15, 44/17 and 49/18). Criminal Code contains criminal provisions related to weapons and ammunition.

2) Laws and bylaws regulating explosives (including pyrotechnics) are as follows:

- Law on Explosive Substance (Official Gazette, No. 49/08, 31/14 and 31/17) regulates a) conditions for the production, storage, trade, transport, import/export, use, and control of explosives and pyrotechnic articles, and b) conditions and licences for handling explosives, technical standards for storage and safety requirements, obligations of transport operators, and the training of personnel.
- Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases (Official Gazette, No. 26/10, 31/10 and 40/11).
- Law on the Transport of Hazardous Substances (Official Gazette, No. 33/14 and 13/18).
- Rulebook on the Conditions and Manner of Storing Explosives.
- Rulebook on the Transport of Explosives (aligned with international regulations such as ADR for the road transport of dangerous goods).
- Rulebook on the Supervision and Inspection of Facilities Handling Explosives.
- Rulebook on Pyrotechnics.
- Criminal Code contains criminal provisions related to explosive materials.

3) Laws and bylaws regulating production and trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment are as follows:

- Law on Control of Exports of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette, No. 145/21).
- Law on Foreign Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment (Official Gazette, No. 40/16).
- Law on Foreign Trade in Goods and Services which could be used for Death Penalty, Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Official Gazette, No. 77/25)
- Customs Law (Official Gazette, No. 07/02, 38/02, 72/02, 21/03, 31/03, 29/05, 66/06, 21/08, 62/13, 71/17, 26/23) prescribes the control on the import/export of explosives and their precursors, as well as licence requirements and customs procedures.
- Criminal Code contains criminal provisions for the unauthorised production, trade, transport, possession, and misuse of explosives and pyrotechnics, as well as penalties for the use of explosives in the commission of criminal offences.

## 1.2 Harmonization of the legal framework on weapons, ammunition and explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors with the EU Acquis

*Guiding question:*

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization *of your jurisdiction's legal* framework on weapons, ammunition, and explosives control with the EU Acquis? Please indicate all relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period, indicating the progress in each stage below and timelines for future steps:

- Drafting: initiation or continuation of drafting new legislation or amendments through established working groups, inter-institutional bodies, or similar mechanisms.
- Review: internal or inter-institutional review, public consultations, expert analysis of proposed legislation, or review by the European Commission.
- Adoption: formal adoption of legislation or its submission to the relevant parliamentary or governmental bodies, including the current status of the adoption process.

In review process:

- A working group has been established to prepare the new draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition, which will be aligned with EU Directive 2021/555 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons. The group will also review and improve existing legal solutions to ensure effective control over the possession and circulation of weapons, prevent their misuse.
  - The
  - Ministry of Interior launched public consultations on 24 January 2025 on the Draft Law inviting civil society, academics and experts, relevant authorities, political actors, civil society organisations, international organisations, and all other interested stakeholders to participate

and contribute to the review.

- The public consultation lasted 30 days, until 24 February 2025. During this period, three roundtable discussions were held as part of the consultations in Budva, Podgorica, and Berane.
- An additional workshop was held in Budva from 3 to 5 March, during which the Working Group incorporated public comments, aligned the draft with the EU acquis, and improved provisions related to the possession, collection, registration, and documentation for the storage of weapons and ammunition.
- Following the consultation period, the Ministry reviewed all submitted comments, proposals, and suggestions, and prepared and published the report on the public consultation process on the e-Government portal.
- Work is currently ongoing to finalise the proposal of the law, taking into account the opinions provided by competent ministries on its alignment with other applicable regulations. This step is required to obtain the opinion of the Secretariat for Legislation and subsequently submit the draft to the European Commission for its assessment of compliance with EU standards.
- **Once the European Commission’s opinion is received, the finalised draft law will be submitted to the Government for consideration and adoption, after which it will be forwarded to the Parliament of Montenegro for further procedure and formal parliamentary deliberation.**

#### In drafting process:

- The Working Group continued its work on drafting the Law on Explosive Precursors. The draft text was prepared and submitted to the competent ministries for their opinions. No meetings were held in the first half of the year.
- No working group was established and no external expert assistance was used for the drafting of the Law on External Trade in Goods That Could Be Used for Executing the Death Penalty, Torture, or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Instead, the Ministry of Economic Development drafted the Law by fully transposing EU Regulation 125/2019 of 16 January 2019 into domestic legislation.

### 1.3 Compliance with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The UN Firearms Protocol)

#### Guiding questions:

Are 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance of *the criminal code with the UN’s Firearms Protocol*? (Please indicate the progress in each stage of drafting, review, adoption).

- Montenegro ratified the Firearms Protocol in 2005 and the Arms Trade Treaty in 2014.
- Criminal offences of illicit manufacturing, trafficking and falsifying of firearms, ammunition and explosives are defined as criminal offences under Article 403 “**Unauthorised possession of weapons and explosive materials**” of the Criminal Code in line with Article 5, 3, and 8 of the UN Firearms Protocol, respectively:
  - Article 403a “Illicit manufacturing of weapons and explosive materials”
  - Article 403b “Illicit trafficking in weapons and explosive materials”
  - Article 403c “Falsification and removal of markings from weapons and explosive materials”
- Amendments to the Criminal Code to ensure alignment with the UN Firearms Protocol were adopted by the Parliament in December 2023. UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme (GFP), prepared an analysis of the compliance of Montenegro’s legislation with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Firearms Protocol. Montenegro has ratified both UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol and participates in their Review Mechanism.

In review process:

- To align Montenegro’s criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol, consultations were held with UNODC experts during the reporting period, who provided recommendations and suggestions to the Ministry of Justice during the amendment process of the Criminal Code, with a view to further improve firearms-related provisions.

Additional activities include:

- In April 2025, a meeting of the UNODC Firearms Working Group was held in Vienna, attended by representatives from Montenegro. The meeting focused on the harmonisation of **Montenegro’s Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol**.
- In May 2025, judges, prosecutors, and police representatives attended a training organised by the UNODC entitled “Firearms in the Courtroom”, held at the **Police Academy** in Danilovgrad.
- Within the framework of the “Justicia” project, Montenegro received from UNODC the publication “Commentary on Criminal Code Provisions Related to Firearms”.

## 1.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested such support? If received, please specify from whom.

- The need for expert support in drafting the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition was identified, and a formal request for support was submitted since the first half of 2024.
- SEESAC provided support for the organisation of roundtable discussions held during the public consultation period, and the drafting and preparation of the Report on the Conducted Public Consultation in the first half of 2025.

## PRISTINA

### 1.1 Laws and bylaws regulating weapons, ammunition, and explosives

*Guiding questions:*

What are the laws and bylaws regulating:

- 1) production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as countering trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition.
- 2) production and possession for civil use and countering trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors.

1) Laws and bylaws regulating weapons and ammunition are as follows:

- Law on Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 05/-022).
- Law on Weapons, Ammunition, and Relevant Security Equipment for Security Institutions (Official Gazette, No. 03/L–246).
- Law No. 05/L-017 on Amending and Supplementing the Law on Weapons, Ammunition and Relevant Security Equipment for Security Institutions (Official Gazette, No. 03/L–246).
- Law on Legalisation and Surrender of Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosive Devices (Official Gazette, No. 05/L-134).
- Law on the Trade of Strategic Goods (Official Gazette, No. 04/L-198).
- Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 06/L-074), Chapter XXIX, Articles 364–369.

- Regulation on Weapon Possession (Official Gazette, No. 04/2012)
- Rulebook on the Catalogue of Firearms (Official Gazette, No. 09/2016)
- Rulebook on Theoretical and Practical Firearms Training, Professional Exam, and Verification of the Quality of Instructors Employed by Legal Entities to Provide Training (Official Gazette, No. 10/2016)
- Rulebook on the Review Commission and Appeals Commission (Official Gazette, No. 05/2016)
- Rulebook on the Minimum Conditions for Storing Weapons, Their Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 08/2016)
- Rulebook on the Use of C8 Category of Weapons and Ammunition for the Temporary Paralysis of Animals (Official Gazette, No. 04/2017)
- Rulebook on the Security and Technical Conditions to Be Fulfilled in Shooting Range Facilities for Civil Use (Official Gazette, No. 10/2010)
- Rulebook on the Minimum Technical and Safety Conditions for Facilities Used for Practical and Theoretical Training in Weapons Use (Official Gazette, No. 12/2010)
- Rulebook on the Procedures for Inheriting Firearms and Ammunition in the Event of the Firearm Owner's Death (Official Gazette, No. 24/2010)
- Rulebook on the Authorisation for the Transport of Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 03/2016)
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Transferring Firearms, Their Parts, and Ammunition Across the State Border (Official Gazette, No. 27/2010)
- Rulebook on Temporary Export Permits, Verification of Import by End Users, Security Measures for Authorized State Security Institutions in Nominating Responsible Personnel, and Criteria for Escort During the Transport of ESP (Official Gazette, No. 02/2016)
- Rulebook on the Legalization of Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 09/2018)
- Rulebook on the Technical Procedures for the Deactivation of Firearms of Categories A, B, C, and D (Official Gazette, No. 03/2023)
- Rulebook on Facilities and the Technological Process for the Manufacturing of Weapons, Weapon Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 08/2023)
- Rulebook on the Tracing of Firearms, Their Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 25/2010)
- Rulebook on the Marking of Firearms, Their Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 26/2010)
- Rulebook on Collectable Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 13/2010)
- Rulebook on Shooting Ranges for Entities Possessing Equipment for Special Purposes (Official Gazette, No. 08/2017)
- Rulebook on the Authorized List of Equipment for Special Purposes for State Security Institutions (Official Gazette, No. 04/2016)

2) Laws and bylaws regulating explosives (including pyrotechnics) are as follows:

- Law on the Civil Use of Explosives (Official Gazette, No. 04/L-022)
- Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 06/L-074), Chapter XXIX, Articles 364–369
- Rulebook on the Criteria and Procedures for Licenses and Permits (Official Gazette, No. 04/2013)
- Rulebook on Education, Professional Qualification Criteria, and Programs for Professional Training (Official Gazette, No. 08/2013, 06/2024)
- Rulebook on Retail Outlets for Pyrotechnic Devices and Pyrotechnics (Official Gazette, No. 14/2013)
- Rulebook on Hazard Classification and Compatibility Groups (Official Gazette, No. 07/2013)
- Rulebook on Professional Training for Inspectors, Their Appointment and the Inspector Manual (Official Gazette, No. 15/2014)
- Rulebook on the Storage of Ammonium and Other Fertilizers (Official Gazette, No. 13/2014)
- Rulebook for Special Safety Measures for the Transport of Explosives and Authorised Pyrotechnics (Official Gazette, No. 14/2014)
- Rulebook on Additional Safety Criteria for Explosives (Official Gazette, No. 12/2014)
- Rulebook on Compensation of Police Expenses for the Police Escort (Official Gazette, No. 07/2020)
- Rulebook on the Investigation of Accidents Involving Explosives and Pyrotechnic Products (Official Gazette, No. 14/2015)
- Rulebook on the Procedures and Forms for Placing Explosives and Pyrotechnic Materials on the

Market, CE Marking Requirements, and Package Marking (Official Gazette, No. 12/2015)

- Rulebook on Cooperation with National and International Organizations (Official Gazette, No. 06/2013)

## 1.2 Harmonization of the legal framework on weapons, ammunition and explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors with the EU Acquis

### Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of *your jurisdiction's legal framework on weapons, ammunition, and explosives* control with the EU Acquis? Please indicate all relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period, indicating the progress in each stage below and timelines for future steps:

- Drafting: initiation or continuation of drafting new legislation or amendments through established working groups, inter-institutional bodies, or similar mechanisms.
- Review: internal or inter-institutional review, public consultations, expert analysis of proposed legislation, or review by the European Commission.
- Adoption: formal adoption of legislation or its submission to the relevant parliamentary or governmental bodies, including the current status of the adoption process.

### In drafting process:

- The Law on Weapons, according to Decision No. 527, is currently under amendment and supplementation. The first phase has not yet been completed.

### In review process:

- The draft Law On Explosives remains under consideration in Parliament, pending adoption.

### No drafting, review or adoption of legal framework reported:

- There has been no development regarding the law on explosive precursors, and no relevant legal documents have been adopted during the reporting period.

## 1.3 Compliance with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The UN Firearms Protocol)

### Guiding questions:

Are 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance of *the criminal code with the UN's Firearms Protocol*? (Please indicate the progress in each stage of drafting, review, adoption).

- Kosovo<sup>1</sup> has not signed the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty, but their provisions have been included in the Criminal Code and the Law on Weapons, respectively.
- Yes. Illicit manufacturing, trafficking, and falsifying of firearms, ammunition, and explosives are defined as criminal offences under Articles 364-369 of the Criminal Code:
  - o Article 364 "Unauthorised import, export, supply, transport, manufacture, exchange, brokering,

<sup>11</sup> 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.

- or sale of weapons or explosive substances”
- Article 365 “Unlawful erasure, removal, or alteration of markings on firearms or ammunition”
- Article 366 “Unauthorised ownership, control, or possession of weapons”
- Article 367 “The use of a weapon and other dangerous device”
- Article 368 “Falsification of firearm permits, authorisations, or licences, and the provision of false information”
- Article 369 “Manufacture or procurement of weapons and means intended for the commission of criminal offences”.
- According to a UNODC assessment from 2020, the Criminal Code and the Criminal Code Procedure are fully aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol;
- Yet, a working group is established for amending the Criminal Code with the aim of increasing penalties related to firearms and the application of additional (supplementary) sanctions for perpetrators of domestic and gender-based crimes. However, the working group did not hold any meeting during the reporting period.

#### 1.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

##### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested such support? If received, please specify from whom.

- The main challenge lies in the complex procedures for drafting legislative documents. This process involves the preparation of primary, secondary, and strategic legal documents, for which the public administration has established specific rules. These rules include the decision to appoint a person responsible for drafting a legislative act. That person then forms a working group, after which the group begins its work, and so on.
- We have received support from SEESAC for the organisation of workshops.

## SARAJEVO

### 1.1 Laws and bylaws regulating weapons, ammunition, and explosives

##### *Guiding questions:*

What are the laws and bylaws regulating:

- 1) production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as countering trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition.
- 2) production and possession for civil use and countering trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors.
- 3) production and trade as well as countering illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment?

##### 1) Laws and bylaws regulating weapons and ammunition are as follows:

Federal level (Prosecutor’s office BiH; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER):

- Law on Marking of Small Arms, Light Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of BiH No. 83/16).
- Instruction on the conditions for obtaining authorisation to mark weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of BiH No. 49/18).
- Rulebook on procedures and methods for marking weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of BiH No. 49/18).
- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Republika Srpska Mol

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska (RS) Nos. 26/16, 18/17, 31/18, 58/19, Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska Nos. 86/24 and 62/25).
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Determining the Justification of Requests for the Acquisition of Weapons (Official Gazette of RS No. 78/16).
- Rulebook on the Content and Design of Forms and Certificates on Weapons (Official Gazette of RS No. 78/16).
- Rulebook on Spatial and Technical Conditions for the Storage and Safekeeping of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of RS No. 85/16).
- Rulebook on the Content and Manner of Keeping Records on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of RS No. 94/16).
- Rulebook on Training and the Training Programme for Handling Category B Firearms (Official Gazette of RS No. 109/16).
- Instruction on Determining the Conditions for the Establishment of Civil Shooting Ranges No. S/M-020-90/18 of 19 June 2018.
- Rulebook on the Procedure and Conditions for Issuing a Permit to Carry Weapons (Official Gazette RS No. 41/20).
- Rulebook on Determining the Health Fitness of Persons for the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of RS No. 97/09).

#### Brčko District Police

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina;**
- **Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina;**

#### Federal Police Administration

- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Una-Sana Canton

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton Nos. 15/21 and 16/22).
- Rulebook on the Working Method of the Commission for Supervision of the Implementation and Application of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 24/22).
- Rulebook on the Appointment and Working Method of Commissions and Other Bodies in the Procedure for Assessing the Fulfilment of Conditions and the Justification of Requests for the Issuance of Authorisations and Documents on Weapons (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Seizing Weapons, Essential Parts, Ammunition and Weapons Documents, as well as on the Manner of Handling Weapons, Essential Parts, Ammunition and Weapons Documents after the Completion of the Administrative Procedure (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 24/22).
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Processing Requests for the Issuance of Authorisations for the Acquisition and Possession of Weapons, the Issuance and Replacement of Weapons Documents, as well as the Procedure for Issuing Certificates, Notifications and Other Documents (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 22/22).
- Rulebook on the Design and Content of Weapons Document Forms and Requests for the Issuance of Weapons Documents and Other Documents (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 22/22).
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Processing Requests for the Conduct of Firearms Handling Training, Authorisation to Perform Activities (trade, repair, modification or deactivation of weapons) and Authorisation to Establish Civil Shooting Ranges (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Training Programme and Method of Instruction for Proper Firearms Handling and Knowledge of Regulations Relating to the Possession, Storage and Carrying of Firearms, Appointment and Working Method of the Commission (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Conditions to be Met by Healthcare Institutions Conducting Medical Examinations to Determine the Health Fitness for Possession and Carrying of Weapons (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 25/22).
- Rulebook on the Storage and Safekeeping of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Una-

Sana Canton No. 23/22).

- Rulebook on Firearms Used for the Operations of Legal Entities (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Deactivation of Firearms (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Spatial and Technical Conditions for the Storage, Safekeeping and Use of Weapons and Ammunition at Civil Shooting Ranges, the Number and Type of Weapons Owned by Civil Shooting Ranges, the Use of Weapons at Civil Shooting Ranges and the Management of Civil Shooting Ranges (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Measures and Actions Undertaken by the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior in Implementing Amnesty for the Illegal Possession of Weapons and in Relation to the Legalisation of Weapons (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 22/22).
- Rulebook on the Forms, Content and Method of Maintaining Records on Weapons and Ammunition by the Competent Authority (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).
- Rulebook on the Forms, Content and Method of Maintaining Records on Weapons and Ammunition by Legal and Natural Persons Registered to Perform Activities (Official Gazette of Una-Sana Canton No. 23/22).

Posavina Canton MoI

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Posavina Canton.

Tuzla Canton MoI

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Tuzla Canton, No. 3/25).
- Rulebook on the Appointment and Working Method of the Commission and Other Participants in the Procedure for Assessing the Fulfilment of Conditions and the Justification of Requests for the Issuance of Authorisations and Weapons Documents (“Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton”, No. 8/2025);
- Rulebook on the Design and Content of Weapons Document Forms and Applications for the Issuance of Weapons Documents and Other Documents (“Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton”, No. 8/2025);
- Rulebook on the Measures and Actions Undertaken by the Police Administration in Implementing the Amnesty for the Illegal Possession of Weapons and in Relation to the Legalisation of Weapons (“Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton”, No. 8/2025);
- Rulebook on the Training Programme and Method of Instruction for Proper Firearms Handling and Knowledge of Regulations Related to the Possession, Storage and Carrying of Firearms, Appointment and Working Method of the Commission (“Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton”, No. 8/2025).

Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI

- Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Zenica-Doboj Canton”, Nos. 9/13, 1/14 and 13/18);
- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI

- Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Bosnian-Podrinje Canton, No. 10/17).
- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Central Bosnia Canton MoI

- Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition of the Central Bosnia Canton (Official Gazette of the CBC, No. 12/14, 9/15, and 10/22).
- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton.

West-Herzegovina Canton MoI

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the West Herzegovina Canton.
- Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH.

Canton Sarajevo MoI

- Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of

the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 1/18, 13/18 – correction, and 30/19)

- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Rulebook on Records Maintained in Accordance with Articles 70 and 71 of the Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, No. 29/18)
- Rulebook on the Design and Content of Weapons Document Forms and Applications for the Issuance of Weapons Documents and Other Documents (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20)
- Rulebook on Measures and Actions Undertaken by the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton in Implementing the Amnesty for the Illegal Possession of Category B Weapons and in Relation to the Legalisation of Weapons (“Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton”, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20)
- Rulebook on the Working Method of Commissions of Competent Police Administrations within the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton and Others in the Procedure for Assessing the Fulfilment of Conditions and the Justification of Requests for Authorisations to Acquire Weapons and the Right to Compensation (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20)
- Rulebook on the Working Method of the Commission for the Supervision of the Implementation and Application of the Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition within the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20)
- Rulebook on the Programme, Method of Work and Destruction, Composition of the Commission, Costs and Other Matters Related to the Destruction of Seized Weapons (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20);
- Rulebook on the Training Programme and Method of Instruction for Proper Firearms Handling and Knowledge of Regulations Related to the Possession, Storage and Carrying of Firearms (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 2/20 and 24/20);
- Rulebook on the Storage and Safekeeping of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20);
- Rulebook on the Conditions Required for Issuing Authorisations for Conducting Activities Related to the Trade in Weapons, Essential Components of Weapons and Ammunition, Brokering in the Trade of Weapons, Essential Components of Weapons and Ammunition, Establishment of Civil Shooting Ranges, and on the Method of Storage and Keeping of Weapons, Essential Components of Weapons and Ammunition, as well as on the Method and Determination of Conditions, Composition, Rights to Compensation and Amount of Compensation for Commissions of the Competent Police Administrations within the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, Nos. 29/18 and 3/20).

#### Canton 10 MoI

- The Law on Weapons and Ammunition of Canton 10 (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 6/13, 8/13, 7/18 and 6/12)
- Rulebook on the conditions to be met by healthcare institutions conducting medical examinations to determine the health fitness of persons for the possession and carrying of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of Canton 10, Nos. 2/14 and 9/22)
- Rulebook on the appearance, content and fees of forms for weapons documents, application forms for authorisations to acquire weapons and ammunition, forms for weapon registration and notification forms (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the programme and method for conducting training of citizens in the correct use of firearms (Official Gazette of Canton 10, Nos. 5/14, 2/21 and 5/21)
- Rulebook on the appearance, content and fees of logbooks for the collection and possession of antique and trophy weapons, which must be kept by legal and natural persons (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the conditions for conducting activities in the trade of weapons and ammunition, and on the appearance, content and fees of logbooks which legal persons and craftsmen are obliged to keep (Official Gazette of Canton 10, Nos. 5/14 and 14/14)

- Rulebook on the method of keeping records of repaired or modified weapons and the templates and content of forms for keeping such records (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the appearance, content and fees of the certificate issued by state bodies and other legal persons to persons to whom they provide weapons and ammunition for the protection of property outside the premises or area being secured, and on the method of record-keeping (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the conditions for the secure storage and safekeeping of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the conditions for the establishment of civil shooting ranges and on the appearance, content and fees of logbooks which legal persons, craftsmen and sporting shooting organisations are obliged to keep (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the appearance and content of the record books to be kept by administrative bodies responsible for internal affairs in Canton 10 (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)
- Rulebook on the procedure and method for deactivating and destroying weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 5/14)

## 2) Laws and bylaws regulating explosives (including pyrotechnics) are as follows:

Federal level (Prosecutor's office BiH; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER):

- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Republika Srpska Mol:

- No legal framework has been reported.

Brcko District Police

- Law on the Trade in Explosive Substances and Flammable Liquids and Gases of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Federal Police Administration

- Law on the Trade in Explosive Substances and Flammable Liquids and Gases (Official Gazette of BiH Nos. 39/89 and 36/90).
- Law on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Official Gazette of SFRY Nos. 27/90 and 45/90).
- Rulebook on the conditions that must be met by retail shops selling explosive substances, containers and other temporary storage facilities for keeping explosive substances, and on the conditions and manner of their use (Official Gazette of SRBiH No. 21/78).

Una-Sana Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Posavina Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Tuzla Canton Mol

- Law on Public Order and Peace (Official Gazette of Tuzla Canton, No. 9/01)

Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- Law on Misdemeanours against Public Order and Peace of the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton (Official Gazette of the BPK, No. 11/14)
- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

West-Herzegovina Canton Mol

- Law on Public Order and Peace of the West Herzegovina Canton.

Canton Sarajevo Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Canton 10 Mol

- The Law on Explosive Substances (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 2/09) defines the conditions

for the production, trade, procurement and use of explosive substances for economic purposes (explosives); the administrative bodies competent to issue licences for the production, procurement and trade in explosive substances; the construction and use of facilities intended for the production and trade in explosive substances; and the conduct of supervision over the implementation of protective and other safety measures in relation to the production, procurement, trade and use of explosive substances.

- Rulebook on the content and format of the form for maintaining records of quantities of explosive substances produced, sold, used, destroyed or otherwise disposed of, and on the method of reporting (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 9/13);
- Rulebook on the technical requirements for pyrotechnic articles intended for procurement and on their testing and supervision (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 9/13);
- Rulebook on safety requirements for pyrotechnic articles and the conditions for their classification (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 9/13);
- Rulebook on permits for blasting (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 9/13);
- Rulebook on the conduct of public fireworks displays (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 9/24).

3) Laws and bylaws regulating production and trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment are as follows:

Federal level (Prosecutor's office BiH; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER):

- Law on Production of Arms and Military Equipment (Official Gazette of BiH Nos. 09/04 and 25/09).
- Law on Foreign Trade Control in Arms, Military Equipment and Special-Purpose Goods (Official Gazette of BiH No. 53/16).
- Instruction on the procedure for issuing permits to legal entities for the production and overhaul of arms and military equipment and on maintaining records in the Central Register (Official Gazette of BiH No. 36/04).
- Instruction on the manner and conditions for re-issuing permits (Official Gazette of BiH No. 69/10).
- Instruction on the procedure for permanent oversight and reporting in the production and overhaul of arms and military equipment (Official Gazette of BiH No. 28/04).
- Instruction on inspection oversight in the production and overhaul of arms and military
- Rulebook on maintaining the register of persons engaged in foreign trade in arms, military equipment and special-purpose goods (Official Gazette of BiH No. 68/17).
- Rulebook on the form and content of documents in foreign trade in arms, military equipment and special-purpose goods (Official Gazette of BiH No. 68/17).
- Instruction on the conditions and procedure for issuing documents in foreign trade in arms, military equipment and special-purpose goods (Official Gazette of BiH No. 69/17).
- Decision on updating and publishing the Common Military List of the European Union (Official Gazette of BiH No. 64/19), adopted by the Council on 18 February 2019.
- Common Military Equipment List.
- List of Special-Purpose Goods (Official Gazette of BiH 25/17).
- List of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette of BiH 65/19).

Republika Srpska MoI

- Law on the Production of Arms and Military Equipment in the Republika Srpska (Official Gazette of RS No. 1/24).

Brčko District Police

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Criminal Code of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Federal Police Administration

- Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Una-Sana Canton MoI

- No legal framework has been reported.

Posavina Canton MoI

- No legal framework has been reported.

Tuzla Canton Mol

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, No. 3/25).

Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton, No. 10/17)
- Criminal Code of BiH

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition of the Central Bosnia Canton (Official Gazette of the CBC, No. 12/14, 9/15, and 10/22).

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

West-Herzegovina Canton Mol

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the West Herzegovina Canton

Canton Sarajevo Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

Canton 10 Mol

- No legal framework has been reported.

## 1.2 Harmonization of the legal framework on weapons, ammunition and explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors with the EU Acquis

### Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization *of your jurisdiction's legal framework on weapons, ammunition, and explosives* control with the EU Acquis? Please indicate all relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period, indicating the progress in each stage below and timelines for future steps:

- Drafting: initiation or continuation of drafting new legislation or amendments through established working groups, inter-institutional bodies, or similar mechanisms;
- Review: internal or inter-institutional review, public consultations, expert analysis of proposed legislation, or review by the European Commission.
- Adoption: formal adoption of legislation or its submission to the relevant parliamentary or governmental bodies, including the current status of the adoption process.

### In drafting process:

- Federal level (MOFTER): Activities are underway to adopt a new List of Special-Purpose Goods. The List of Special-Purpose Goods (Official Gazette of BiH No. 25/17): non-military goods for commercial purposes which, due to their characteristics, may endanger human life and health, material property, the environment, or the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry, in consultation with competent state, entity, cantonal, and Brčko District authorities, adopts and publishes this list in the Official Gazette of BiH.

Republika Srpska Mol

- In February 2025, Mol representatives attended a meeting at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare regarding the transposition of Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 on the marketing and use of explosive precursors. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, Energy and Mining, Agriculture, and European Integration of the Government of the Republika Srpska.

Brcko District Police

- Continuation of the drafting of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- Mol representatives have actively participated in inter-institutional working groups working on the harmonisation of cantonal and entity legislation with EU directives in the field of arms, ammunition, and explosives control. Amendments have been drafted through these working groups, while a Law on Amendments to the Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons had previously been adopted, although it does not pertain to the current reporting period.

#### West-Herzegovina Canton Mol

- A Commission for the Harmonisation of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition has been established, and the alignment with EU Council Directives is currently in progress.

#### Canton 10 Mol

- Preparation of the preliminary draft of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition continued. The draft will be aligned with the Report of the Working Group for the Harmonisation of Firearms Legislation and with Directive (EU) 2021/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- A Working Group of the Ministry of Interior of Canton 10 has been appointed to prepare a proposal for the Law on Explosive Substances of Canton 10
- The Mol of Canton 10 addressed the Ministry of Justice and Administration, the Office for Legislation of the Herzeg-Bosnia Canton, and the Ministry of Finance, requesting their opinions on the preliminary draft of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Herzeg-Bosnia Canton. The Ministry of Finance provided its opinion, stating that the preliminary draft of the Law may proceed to the next stage of the regular legislative procedure.

#### In review process:

- Federal level (MOFTER):
  - A Decision on the adoption of the Common Military List of the European Union, adopted by the EU Council on 24 February 2025, is in publication procedure. The List will be applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the control of export, import, and brokering of arms and military equipment, as well as related services.

#### Tuzla Canton Mol:

- The Draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition underwent a public consultation process and received a positive opinion from the Office for Legislation of the Government of the Tuzla Canton.

#### Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- A draft law on the acquisition, possession and carrying of weapons and ammunition has been prepared and submitted to the Directorate for European Integration for an assessment of its alignment with the European Union acquis.

#### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- An internal review of the current Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Central Bosnia Canton (SBK/KSB) was conducted with the aim of identifying provisions that need to be harmonised with entity and federal laws, as well as with EU regulations.
- Consultations were held with other cantonal Mols to exchange good practices and ensure a harmonised approach in future amendments.
- During the reporting period, no new amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Central Bosnia Canton were adopted. However, internal preparations were carried out and a baseline was developed for future harmonisation with EU directives.

#### Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol

- A draft of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNC/HNK) has been prepared in line with harmonisation efforts and is currently in the phase of receiving comments, proposals, and suggestions.

#### In adoption process or adopted:

##### Posavina Canton Mol

- On 25 June 2025, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition was adopted, fully harmonised with EU Directive 2021/555 and with the recommendations of the Council of

Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the harmonisation of firearms legislation.

#### Tuzla Canton Mol

- Tuzla Canton adopted the Law on Weapons and Ammunition during the reporting period. The draft law was prepared in relation to Council Directive (EU) 2021/555. However, during the Assembly session, a number of amendments were introduced, the adoption of which deviated the final draft from the EU Directive.
- Following the adoption of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, four by-laws (listed above under sub-section 1.1) were adopted during the reporting period.

#### Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- A public consultation was conducted and a draft Law on Amendments to the Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition has been prepared. The draft law is currently in the process of adoption.

No drafting, review or adoption of legal framework reported:

#### Federal level (Prosecutor's office BiH, MOFTER)

- **Prosecutor's Office:** No activities have been initiated to align the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the EU Acquis.

#### Republika Srpska Mol

- The Law on Weapons and Ammunition is partially harmonised with the Council Directive of 18 June 1991 on the Control of the Acquisition and Possession of Weapons including its 2008 amendments, as well as with the UN Firearms Protocol.

#### Federal Police Administration

- A law on the acquisition, possession and carrying of weapons and ammunition at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet been adopted. Consequently, the Federal Police Administration operates in accordance with the respective cantonal laws on the acquisition, possession and carrying of weapons and ammunition, depending on the canton in which it exercises its competence.
- Una-Sana Canton Mol and Canton Sarajevo Mol reported no activities.

#### Additional information:

- Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board): With expert and logistical support from SEESAC, the Coordination Board organised a workshop titled "Harmonising Weapons and Ammunition Legislation with Each Other and with the EU Acquis", held on 18 March 2025 in Sarajevo. The aim was to exchange experiences and harmonise approaches among institutions responsible for drafting and implementing firearms and ammunition legislation, as well as to strengthen institutional cooperation in the EU harmonisation process. Representatives from cantons in the Federation of BiH, the Republika Srpska, and Brčko District presented their draft laws on weapons and ammunition, which were at various stages of the parliamentary procedure, with particular reference to the recently adopted law in Tuzla Canton. Discussions focused on identifying differences between regulations, defining priority steps for alignment, and exchanging practical experiences from the legislative process. The workshop concluded with adopted conclusions and recommendations to guide further harmonisation of the legal framework on arms and ammunition control in BiH.

### 1.3 Compliance with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The UN Firearms Protocol)

#### Guiding questions:

Are 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal codes?

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance of

the criminal codes *with the UN's Firearms Protocol*? (Please indicate the progress in each stage of drafting, review, adoption).

Federal level (Prosecutor's office BiH; State Investigation and Protection Agency BiH - SIPA):

- **Prosecutor's Office:** Items 1), 2), and 3) are regulated by the Law on Weapons at the Cantonal Level, the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District, as well as by the Criminal Codes of the entities and the Brčko District. The offence of illicit trade in firearms is prescribed by the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina when it involves cross-border transfer.
- In cooperation with UNODC, workshops were held to prepare a proposal for Article 193 – "Unauthorised Trafficking in Weapons, Military Equipment, and Dual-Use Goods" to bring it into alignment with the provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol and advance it into the legislative procedure for amending the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- During April and May 2025, activities conducted jointly with the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres in the Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska addressed the international legal framework, the need for domestic harmonisation, and the ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Justice on aligning Article 193 of the Criminal Code of BiH with the UN Firearms Protocol. Compared to the existing draft, improvements were proposed to strengthen sanctions related to participation in organised groups committing firearms-related offences.
- SIPA: Yes, the criminal offence is defined in Article 193 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Unauthorised Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment and Dual-Use Items.

Republika Srpska Mol

- Article 361 of the Criminal Code of the Republika Srpska (Official Gazette of RS Nos. 64/17, 15/21, 89/21, 72/23, 9/24, 105/24, 19/25, 14/25, 31/25, and 85/25) prescribes the criminal offence of "Unauthorised Manufacturing and Trafficking of Weapons or Explosive Substances."
- Article 21 of the Law on the Marking of Small Arms, Light Weapons and Corresponding Ammunition (Official Gazette of BiH No. 83/16) defines the criminal offence of "Improper Marking." Paragraph 3 of the same article criminalises the forgery, unlawful erasure, removal, or alteration of markings that weapons or ammunition are required to bear.

Brcko District Police

- Yes these are defined. No activities have been initiated during the reporting period.

Federal Mol

- Yes, Article 371 "Unlawful Possession of Weapons or Explosive Materials" of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH includes some parts of illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition.

## 1.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### Guiding questions:

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested such support? If received, please specify from whom.

Federal level (Ministry of Security, SALW Coordination Board)

- Support has been provided in the form of assistance and training for the development of an analysis of the legislative framework on the control of explosives and explosive precursors in relation to the EU regulatory framework.

Tuzla Canton Mol

- It is essential to secure the support of all relevant institutions in order to initiate amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, No. 3/25), aimed at ensuring full harmonisation of the Law with EU Directives. Certain activities have already been initiated, and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has addressed the executive and legislative authorities of the Tuzla Canton with a communication expressing clear concern regarding several adopted provisions of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition that deviate from the requirements set out in the EU Directives.

West-Herzegovina Canton MoI

- It is essential to ensure the support of all relevant institutions to achieve full harmonisation of the Law on Weapons with EU Directives.

## SKOPJE

### 1.1 Laws and bylaws regulating weapons, ammunition, and explosives

*Guiding questions:*

What are the laws and bylaws regulating:

- 1) production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as countering trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition.
- 2) production and possession for civil use and countering trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors.
- 3) production and trade as well as countering illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment?

1) Laws and bylaws regulating weapons and ammunition are as follows:

- Law On Weapons (Official Gazette No. 7/05, 47/06, 42/07, 86/08, 72/10, 158/11, 119/13, 164/13, 97/2018, 171/22, 101/25)
- Rulebook on the criteria concerning the spatial conditions and the material-technical and IT equipment of premises for taking the professional examination on weapons (Official Gazette No. 126/14)
- Rulebook on the forms for weapons and ammunition and on the manner of keeping records on weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette No. 94/09, Correction 104/09, 2/10, 156/10, 35/14)
- Rulebook terminating the validity of the Rulebook on the composition of the commissions of the Ministry of Interior for test firings, the manner of conducting test firings and the safekeeping of cartridge cases from the weapons used in the test firing (Official Gazette No. 122/18)
- Rulebook on the minimum technical and safety requirements that must be met by facilities engaged in the manufacture, repair, trade or storage of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette No. 111/07)
- Rulebook on the types of weapons that may be acquired on the basis of authorisation and on the meaning of certain types of Category A and D weapons (Official Gazette No. 51/07 and 2/11)
- Rulebook on the procedure for the handover, receipt and safekeeping of weapons and ammunition in the event of the death of the weapon owner, and on the form and content of the certificate for weapons and ammunition handed over to the competent authority (Official Gazette No. 51/07, 2/11)
- Rulebook on the minimum technical and safety requirements that must be met by civilian shooting-range facilities (Official Gazette No. 11/07)
- Decision designating the health institutions authorised to carry out medical examinations of individuals for determining medical fitness for the possession and carrying of weapons (Official Gazette No. 83/07, 87/12, 116/13, 121/15)
- Rulebook on the type and method of conducting medical examinations for determining medical fitness for the possession and carrying of weapons, the list of diseases and health conditions that render a person unfit for the possession and carrying of weapons, and the procedure for issuing medical certificates (Official Gazette No. 98/05)
- Rulebook on the training programme for the proper use, safekeeping and maintenance of weapons, the manner of conducting practical training in weapon handling and the procedure for the professional examination for verifying technical knowledge of proper weapon use and knowledge of weapons regulations (Official Gazette No. 83/05, 135/08, 56/10, 145/14)
- Rulebook on the minimum technical and safety requirements that must be met by facilities of legal entities for practical training in weapon handling (Official Gazette No. 83/05, 135/08)
- Rulebook on the technical specifications for deactivation of firearms, the form and content of the

template for marking deactivated firearms and the form and content of the template for the firearm deactivation certificate (Official Gazette No. 221/20)

- Rulebook on the content and manner of maintaining electronic records of weapons, as well as the form, content and method of maintaining the Register for monitoring the production, repair, trade and transport of weapons (Official Gazette No. 31/21)

## 2) Laws and bylaws regulating explosives (including pyrotechnics) are as follows:

- Law On Trade Of Explosive Substances (Official Gazette No. 30/85, 6/89 and 53/91, 12/93, 31/93, 66/07, 86/08, 148/15)
- Law On Protection Against Explosive Substances (Official Gazette Nos. 4/78, 51/88, 36/90, 12/93, 66/07, 84/08, 135/11, 148/15)
- Rulebook on the form and content of the applications and permits for the transport and procurement of explosive substances (Official Gazette No. 146/09, 14/20)
- List of explosive substances permitted for trade (Official Gazette No. 64/98, 19/01, 46/04, 106/06, 208/15, 104/18, 56/19, 120/19, 231/19, 52/20, 42/21, 280/22)
- Law On Criminal Procedure (Official Gazette No. 150/10, 100/12, 142/16 and 198/18)
- Criminal Code (Official Gazette No. 37/96, 80/99, 4/02, 43/03, 19/04, 81/05, 60/06, 73/06, 7/08, 139/08, 114/09, 51/11, 135/11, 185/11, 142/12, 166/12, 55/13, 82/13, 14/14, 27/14, 28/14, 41/14, 115/14, 132/14, 160/14, 199/14, 196/15, 226/15, 97/17 and 248/18, 188/23)

## 3) Laws and bylaws regulating production and trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment are as follows:

- Law On The Development, Production And Trade Of Military Goods (Official Gazette No. 298/21)
- Law On Export Control Of Dual-Use Goods And Technologies (Official Gazette No. 82/05, 84/07, 158/10, 136/11, 199/14, 192/15, 53/16 and Official Gazette Nos. 215/21, 3/25)
- Rulebook on the forms of applications and permits for the transport of weapons and ammunition on import, export, transfer, and transit, issued electronically (Official Gazette No. 94/09, 56/10, 17/20)
- Rulebook on the manner of transferring weapons and ammunition across the state border (Official Gazette No. 51/07)
- Rulebook on the procedure for issuing permits for export–import, transit and brokerage services and on the form and content of the application and permit for export–import, transit and brokerage of arms and military equipment (Official Gazette No. 137/14)
- Rulebook on the content, form and manner of keeping the register of issued permits for export–import, transit and brokerage and of rejected applications for arms and military equipment (Official Gazette No. 115/14)
- Rulebook on the conduct of production and trade in military goods and equipment (Official Gazette No. 73/2004)
- Rulebook on the form and content of the application for an end-user certificate and on the form and content of the end-user certificate and international import certificate (Official Gazette No. 123/22)
- Rulebook on the form and content of the inspector identification card and on the procedure for its issuance and revocation by the Directorate for Special Production (Official Gazette No. 123/22)
- Rulebook on the form and content of the End-User Certificate for the import of dual-use goods and technologies (Official Gazette No. 75/25)
- Rulebook on the form and content of the application and permit for the export of dual-use goods and technologies (Official Gazette No. 48/25)
- Rulebook on the form and content of the application and permit for brokerage services in dual-use goods and technologies (Official Gazette No. 48/25)
- Rulebook on the procedure for issuing permits for the transit of dual-use goods and technologies and the form and content of the related application and permit (Official Gazette No. 48/25)
- Decision establishing the List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (Official Gazette No. 81/24). This Decision aligns the legislation with the EU Regulation 2023/2616 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of dual-use items.

## 1.2 Harmonization of the legal framework on weapons, ammunition and explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors with the EU Acquis

### Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of *your jurisdiction's legal framework on weapons, ammunition, and explosives* control with the EU Acquis? Please indicate all relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period, indicating the progress in each stage below and timelines for future steps:

- Drafting: initiation or continuation of drafting new legislation or amendments through established working groups, inter-institutional bodies, or similar mechanisms.
- Review: internal or inter-institutional review, public consultations, expert analysis of proposed legislation, or review by the European Commission.
- Adoption: formal adoption of legislation or its submission to the relevant parliamentary or governmental bodies, including the current status of the adoption process.

### In drafting process:

- A working group was established by the MoI to draft a new Law on Weapons. A meeting was held with representatives of the Macedonian Shooting Federation, the Hunting Federation of Macedonia and the Weapons Group to collect proposals aimed at improving the practical implementation of the Law. The drafting of the Law on Weapons is in its final stage, with the adoption procedure expected to begin by end October 2025.
- A new Law on Civil Use of Explosives is also in its final drafting stage in order to be harmonised with relevant EU regulations. Work is currently focused on drafting the misdemeanour provisions and incorporating comments from legal entities on the draft version of the Law.
- A draft Law on Explosive Substances is expected to be finalised, published on ENER, and submitted for adoption by the Government by end November 2025.

## 1.3 Compliance with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The UN Firearms Protocol)

### Guiding questions:

Are 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance of *the criminal code with the UN's Firearms Protocol*? (Please indicate the progress in each stage of drafting, review, adoption).

- North Macedonia ratified the Firearms Protocol in 2007 and the Arms Trade Treaty in 2014.
- Yes. Illicit manufacturing, trafficking, and falsifying of firearms, ammunition, and explosives are defined as criminal offences under Articles 395 and 396 of the Criminal Code:
  - Article 395 **"Manufacturing and procurement of weapons and means intended for the commission of a criminal offence"**:
    - 1) Any person who manufactures, assembles, procures, conceals, or enables another person to obtain weapons, their parts and components, ammunition, explosive or dispersive substances or materials required for their production, poisons, or other items knowing that they are intended for the commission of a criminal offence shall be punished with imprisonment from one to five years.
    - 2) If the object of the offence referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article is a firearm, weapon, its parts and components whose use is prohibited, or a greater quantity of explosive or other

substances, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from three to ten years.

3) Any person who manufactures or provides to another person a false key or other means for breaking and entering, knowing that it is intended for the commission of a criminal offence, shall be punished with imprisonment from three months to three years.

4) If the offence referred to in this Article is committed by a legal entity, it shall be punished with a fine.

o Article 396 **“Unauthorised manufacturing, possession, mediation, and trade in weapons and explosive substances”**:

1) Any person who, without authorisation, imports, exports, transfers, delivers, sells, purchases, mediates in, or otherwise engages in the trade of firearms, parts and components of firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances, or who violates prohibitions, restrictions, or sanctions introduced by international agreements ratified in accordance with the Constitution of North Macedonia or by a decision of an international organisation of which North Macedonia is a member, shall be punished with imprisonment from four to ten years.

2) The same punishment shall apply to any person who, without authorisation, manufactures, assembles, repairs, modifies firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, or explosive substances, develops new weapons, or possesses electronic technical drawings or designs for the production – via 3D printers or similar devices – of parts and components of firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances.

3) The same punishment shall also apply to any person who, without authorisation, possesses or carries firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances, or a larger quantity of parts and components of firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances.

4) If the object of the offences referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article is a greater quantity of firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, or explosive substances, or firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances whose possession by civilians is prohibited, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than five years.

5) If the object of the offence referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article is a greater quantity of firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances, or firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances whose possession by civilians is prohibited, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than five years.

6) If the offences referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this Article are committed by a group, gang, or other criminal association, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than eight years.

7) If the object of the offence referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article is a greater quantity of dispersive substances intended for authorised recreational, celebratory, or other events, the perpetrator shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment of up to three years.

8) If the offence referred to in this Article is committed by a legal entity, it shall be punished with a fine.

o Article 396-a **“Counterfeiting of firearms”**

1) Any person who falsifies firearm markings by deleting, destroying, or altering the markings on firearms or firearm parts, or who fails to stamp and mark firearms, their parts, components, or ammunition, shall be punished with imprisonment from one to ten years.

2) If the offence referred to in this Article is committed by a legal entity, it shall be punished with a fine.

- The Criminal Code has been harmonised with the Firearms Protocol through amendments adopted in September 2023. These amendments also include the possession of electronic technical drawings for the production of weapons using 3D printers.

**Additional activities:**

- Prosecutors, investigators, and judges from North Macedonia participated in a capacity-building workshop organized by UNODC in Vienna on 13 February 2025 to support the implementation of the Criminal Code.

## 1.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested such support? If received, please specify from whom.

- Support is needed for the development of a software for explosive substances for civilian use following the adoption of the Law on Explosive Substances for Civilian Use;
- Training of employees from the Sector for Weapons, Explosive and Hazardous Substances, Security and Detective Agencies for the supervision of the Law on Explosive Substances;
- Technical assistance for the categorisation of previously registered weapons, commercial explosives and pyrotechnic devices;
- Implementation of a campaign for the voluntary surrender and legalisation of weapons, following the entry into force of the Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Weapons;
- Expert and technical support for establishing alignment between the Law on Weapons and the Law on Testing and Stamping, i.e. the marking of firearms and ammunition;
- Drafting the legislative framework and by-laws on weapons and explosive substances for civilian use – support received from SEESAC for the drafting of the legislative framework;
- Preparation of concordance tables to ensure alignment of the legislative framework with EU law – support requested from SEESAC;

## TIRANA

### 1.1 Laws and bylaws regulating weapons, ammunition, and explosives

*Guiding questions:*

What are the laws and bylaws regulating:

- 1) production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as countering trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition.
- 2) production and possession for civil use and countering trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors.
- 3) production and trade as well as countering illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment?

1) Laws and bylaws regulating weapons and ammunition are as follows:

- Law on Weapons (No. 72/2014; 74/2014; 152/2020; 73/2023)
- Law on Private Physical Security Services (No. 75/2014; 90/2023)
- Law on the Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (No. 6/2014)
- Law on State Border Control (No. 39/2025)
- Law on Declaring the Hunting Moratorium (No. 60/2022)
- Law on the Prison Police (No. 80/2020; 39/2023)
- Decision on the approval of the Regulation “On the Use of Firearms” (No. 839/2015)
- Decision on the procedures of entry/exit, stamping of weapons, and registration of Albanian or foreign citizens with weapons of category “B” and “C” (No. 348/2015; 272/2021)
- Order of the Minister of Interior on establishing committees for firearms-related activities (No. 203/2024)
- Order on the composition, duties, and manner of functioning of the Commission for licensing/authorizing entities to conduct activities involving firearms (No. 367/2021)
- Decision on the procedures for reviewing applications, documentation, deadlines for review, and specific licensing criteria for activities permitted with firearms (No. 421/2015; 462/2021; 177/2025)

- Decision on procedures for evaluating threats and risks to life and issuing special authorization for carrying weapons (No. 95/2015; 289/2021)
- Instruction of the Minister of Interior on procedures for obtaining authorization for firearms-related activities, registering firearms, keeping cartridges in a data bank, and the procedures conducted after handover to the forensic police (198/2024)
- Instruction of the Minister of Interior on the procedures, documentation, and deadlines for reviewing applications for firearm authorization for legal and natural persons; the register format for weapons and ammunition for licensed entities conducting activities with firearms; and the rules, procedures, and forms to be completed during experimental shooting and the administration of cartridge cases in a database (No. 277/2015; 386/2021)
- Order of the General Director of the Police on the approval of certification procedures and the format for the certification of technical managers engaged in firearms-related activities (No. 559/2021)
- Instruction of the Minister of Interior on procedures for issuing/revoking certificates of theoretical and practical qualification for firearms, the format of the certificate, and the procedures for the certification of technical managers with regard to firearms-related activities, including the training course program, theoretical and practical qualification for firearms, and the requirements for training venues (No. 262/2015; 334/2021)
- Joint Instruction of the Minister of Interior and Minister of Health on the types of medical examinations and the content of medical reports regarding firearms-related activities (88/2015)
- Order of the General Director of the Police on the form and content of the certificate of reliability (No. 417/2018)
- Order of the General Director of the Police on cases, modalities, and the structures authorized to issue reliability certificates (No. 17/2024)
- Decision on procedures concerning weapons in cases of declaration of death, declaration of official closure of activities, for study purposes, in case of weapon loss, theft, or respective document/authorization (No. 94/2015; 269/2021)
- Joint Instruction of the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Finance on the amount, criteria, and procedures for financial fees related to authorized firearm activities (No. 221/2024; 264/1/2015)
- Decision for the approval of the regulation on conditions and rules for weapons safety (No. 275/2015; 271/2021)
- Decision on the approval of the types and methods of use of weapons by the Prison Police (No. 471/2009)
- Decision on defining conditions for carrying personal weapons, including outside working hours, by employees of the Prison Police (625/2024)
- Order on approving armament and ammunition supply standards for Prison Police employees (No. 5230/1/2009)
- Order on approving the equipment and tools used by the Prison Police (No. 6596/1/2009)
- Decision on determining the rules for the creation, access, functionality, and management of the electronic registry of firearms, their main components, and ammunition (No. 323/2022)
- Decision on the **Regulation “Standards and Techniques for the Deactivation of Firearms and Their Essential Components” (No. 348/2022)**
- Decision on defining rules and procedures for declaring, preserving, registering, and deactivating weapons for collection purposes (No. 96/2015; 270/2021)
- Decision on determining the procedures for granting licenses for the production, deactivation, and repair of firearms (No. 658/2015)
- Joint Instruction of the Minister of Interior, Minister of Defense, and the General Prosecutor on procedures and detailed regulations concerning the handling of firearms as material evidence (90/2015)

- Order of the Director General of the Police “Standard Operating Procedure in cases of discovery of firearms/ammunition/explosives posing significant risks to security and safety” (No. 1214/2021)
- Decision of the Council of Ministers (hereinafter Decision) on the approval of the Strategy for Small Arms, Light Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosives Control for 2019–2024, and the Action Plan for 2019–2021 (No. 50/2019)
- Decision on the approval of the 2022–2024 Action Plan under the Strategy for Small Arms, Light Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosives Control 2019–2024 (No. 754/2021) Decision on the approval of public security services in pre-university education institutions and the criteria for security officers (No. 600/2018; 227/2025)

## 2) Laws and bylaws regulating explosives (including pyrotechnics) are as follows:

- Law on the availability on the Market and Supervision of Explosives for Civil Use (No. 74/2021)
- Law on the availability on the Market and Supervision of Pyrotechnic Articles (No. 73/2021)
- Decision on procedures, conditions, criteria, deadlines, validity, and formats for issuing, revoking, and suspending licenses and authorizations for the production, import, export, and transit of explosives for civil use (No. 247/2025)
- Decision on determining procedures, conditions and criteria, deadlines, validity, and formats for issuing and revoking authorizations for carrying out activities related to storage, transfer, and disposal of explosives for civil use (No. 48/2024)
- Order of the Minister of Interior on establishing committees for issuing authorization for the storage, transfer, and destruction of explosives (No. 199/2024)
- Decision on determining procedures, conditions and criteria, deadlines, validity, and formats for issuing and revoking authorizations for carrying out activities related to the storage, transfer, and disposal of pyrotechnic items (No. 236/2024)
- Decision on defining the specific conditions for licensing and authorisation, the required supporting documentation for obtaining a licence or authorisation, the validity period of licences and authorisations, the procedures and timelines for their review and decision-making, as well as the procedures for the revocation/suspension of licences and authorisations for the production, import, export, transit, and transfer of pyrotechnic articles (509/2023)
- Order of the Minister of Defence, approving the regulation on the security measures to be taken by economic operators involved in the production, import, export, and transit of pyrotechnic articles (No. 906/2024)

## 3) Laws and bylaws regulating production and trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment are as follows:

- Law on State Control of International Transfers of Military Goods and Dual-Use Items and Technologies (No. 46/2018)
- Decision on the approval, in principle, of the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (No. 604/2003)
- Decision on defining the types of licenses/certificates and authorizations, application documentation, formats for application requests, as well as the formats of licenses, authorizations, and certificates for international transfers of military goods and items and dual-use technologies issued by the state export control authority (No. 248/2025)
- Decision on the organization, composition, functioning, and status of the State Export Control Authority, and on setting the timelines, methods, and procedures for information exchange and consultation with other institutions involved in international transfers of controlled goods, as well as the procedures for issuing guarantees and carrying out state control (No. 842/2024; 31/2020)
- Decision on determining the procedure for issuing legal guarantee documents in the field of state control of import-export activities of military goods and dual-use goods and technologies (No. 30/2009)

## 1.2 Harmonization of the legal framework on weapons, ammunition and explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors with the EU Acquis

### Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of *your jurisdiction's legal framework on weapons, ammunition, and explosives* control with the EU Acquis? Please indicate all relevant activities undertaken during the reporting period, indicating the progress in each stage below and timelines for future steps:

- Drafting: initiation or continuation of drafting new legislation or amendments through established working groups, inter-institutional bodies, or similar mechanisms.
- Review: internal or inter-institutional review, public consultations, expert analysis of proposed legislation, or review by the European Commission.
- Adoption: formal adoption of legislation or its submission to the relevant parliamentary or governmental bodies, including the current status of the adoption process.

### In review process:

- The first draft of law "On the Import, Export, and Transit of Firearms, Essential Components, and Ammunition" has been submitted for review as part of the process of drafting the law "On the Firearms Protocol", which fully transposes Regulation (EU) 2025/41 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on import, export, and transit measures for firearms, essential components, and ammunition, in implementation of Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol.

### In adoption process or adopted:

- Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers on the approval of the list of military goods and the list of dual-use items and technologies subject to state control of international transfers. This draft decision fully aligns with Regulation (EU) 2024/2547 of 5 September 2024, amending Regulation (EU) 2021/821, of 20 May 2021 "On setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfers, brokering, and transit of dual-use items (CELEX: 32024R2547)". Furthermore, it fully aligns with the "Common Military List of the European Union", approved by the Council on 24 February 2025 (CELEX: 52025XG01499).
- Joint Instruction of the Minister of Defence, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Infrastructure and Energy on the obligations and procedures for economic operators to implement safety measures to protect life, human health, and property during the production and transfer of explosives for civil use.

### Bylaws approved:

- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 177, dated 20.3.2025, "On some amendments to Decision No. 421, dated 13.5.2015, of the Council of Ministers, 'On the procedures for the review of applications, documentation, deadlines for review, and specific licensing criteria for activities permitted with arms,' as amended."
- Standard Operating Procedure No. 171, dated 21.01.2025, "On providing authorization/certificates/licenses to natural and legal individuals for activities permitted with arms and monitoring and controlling these activities."
- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 247, dated 30.4.2025, "On procedures, conditions, criteria, deadlines, validity, and formats for issuing, revoking, and suspending licenses and authorizations for the production, import, export, and transit of explosives for civil use."
- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 248, dated 30.4.2025, "On defining the types of licenses/certificates and authorizations, application documentation, formats for application requests, as well as the formats of licenses, authorizations, and certificates for international

transfers of military goods and items and dual-use technologies issued by the state export control authority."

- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 227, dated 17.04.2025, "On a change to Decision No. 600, dated 9.10.2018, of the Council of Ministers, 'On the approval of public security services in pre-university education institutions and the criteria for security officers,' as amended."

### 1.3 Compliance with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The UN Firearms Protocol)

#### Guiding questions:

Are 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance of *the criminal code with the UN's Firearms Protocol*? (Please indicate the progress in each stage of drafting, review, adoption).

- Albania ratified the Firearms Protocol in 2007 and the Arms Trade Treaty in 2014.
- The following are defined as criminal offences in the Criminal Code of Albania:
  - The unlawful production of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition is stipulated in **Article 278** "Unlicensed possession and production of weapons, explosive weapons, and ammunition"
  - The illegal trafficking of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition is addressed in **Article 278/a** "Trafficking of weapons and ammunition"
  - The forgery or tampering, removal, or unlawful alteration of markings on firearms is covered under the last paragraph of Article 278.

#### In review process:

- The Criminal Code is currently under review and inter-institutional consultation, including the provisions related to firearms.

#### Additional activities:

- The **Justitia Project "Criminal Justice Response Against Firearms Trafficking"** is supporting the strengthening of capacities in the practice of criminal prosecution among investigators, prosecutors, and magistrates, including aspects related to their training.

### 1.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

#### Guiding questions:

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested such support? If received, please specify from whom.

- The need for technical assistance in drafting the law on explosive precursors, which has also been shared during local and regional coordination meetings on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap.
- The need for technical expertise in drafting the draft law "On the Import, Export, and Transit of Firearms, Essential Components, and Ammunition". This draft law fully transposes Regulation (EU) 2025/41 of the European Parliament and the Council, dated 19 December 2024, on measures for the import, export, and transit of firearms, their essential components, and ammunition, in accordance with Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol, and its implementing by-laws.

## ROADMAP GOAL 2

By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led (KPIs 2 and 3)

<p>Roadmap Overall Targets:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop/align SALW strategies and/or the Action Plans with the Roadmap.</li> <li>2. Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking.</li> <li>3. Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy documents on arms control.</li> <li>4. Standardize and institutionalize record-keeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age.</li> <li>5. Strengthen planning, coordination and monitoring functions of SALW Commissions to ensure effective policies on arms control.</li> <li>6. Strengthen and systematize the collection and reporting of criminal justice data.</li> <li>7. Ensure that every weapon recovered or seized is traced<sup>2</sup> (domestically and/or internationally).</li> </ol>
<p>Progress information on Goal 2 Overall Targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alignment of SALW Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap.</li> <li>2. Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of activities under SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans;</li> <li>3. Recording keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives;</li> <li>4. Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and <b>women’s participation in SALW control;</b></li> <li>5. <b>Information exchange among the police, prosecutor’s office, and courts on WAE-related cases;</b></li> <li>6. Domestic and international tracing of firearms;</li> <li>7. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.</li> </ol>

<sup>2</sup> Data related to tracing will be included only in the KPI reports.

## BELGRADE

### 2.1 Development and alignment of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap

*Guiding questions:*

Is there a valid SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan in place? If so, is it aligned with the Roadmap? If not, has the process for developing the new SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan been initiated?

- Following the expiration of the SALW Control Strategy 2019-2024, a Working Group held its first meeting in February 2025 to prepare the draft Programme for the Control of SALW, Ammunition and Explosives and the accompanying Action Plan. The draft Programme will cover the same timeframe as the Regional Roadmap (2025–2030), while the first Action Plan is being prepared for the period 2025–2027. During the reporting period, intensive work continued on drafting the documents and implementing the procedures prescribed by law toward their adoption. After the working versions of the documents were prepared, public consultations were conducted from 23 to 30 May 2025, during which the documents were posted on the relevant portals (“eKonsultacije” and the official website of the Ministry of Interior – [www.mup.gov.rs](http://www.mup.gov.rs)). The report on the results of the consultation process was prepared on 3 June 2025 and it is also available online.
- Following the public consultations, work on the documents continued, including alignment with the Roadmap, domestic priorities and the preparation of drafts for conducting a public debate planned for the third quarter of 2025. Following the public debate, the draft documents are planned to be submitted to the European Commission for opinion. Adoption of the proposed Programme and Action Plan is expected by the end of 2025.
- The Minister of Interior endorsed the new Roadmap 2025-2030 at the EU–Western Balkans Ministerial Forum in October 2024, confirming activities to adopt a new strategic document in this area. On 4 December 2024, the Minister of Interior established an intersectoral working group for the preparation of the draft Programme for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives and the accompanying Action Plan.

### 2.2 Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of arms control activities

*Guiding questions:*

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how? Were civil society organizations included in the coordination activities?

- Within the framework of the mechanisms established under the previous SALW Control Strategy in Serbia, the Government established the SALW Control Coordination Council. On 6 July 2023, the Government appointed a new SALW Control Coordinator, who is also a member of the Council. Furthermore, since 2019, a Team for the implementation, monitoring and exchange of all operational information related to weapons (Firearms Focal Point) has been established. All local and internationally assumed obligations of Serbia in the field of SALW control are implemented through these mechanisms.
- On 27 February 2025, representatives of the MoI participated in the meeting of the Steering Committee of the multi-beneficiary IPA project “Support to Strengthening the Fight against the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of SALW in the Western Balkans”, as well as in the meeting of the Regional Steering Group on SALW and the SALW Commissions Meeting, held on 5 March 2025, organised by the RCC and SEESAC.
- In line with its commitments, and in cooperation with SEESAC, Serbia held the 11<sup>th</sup> local coordination meeting on progress in the implementation of the regional Roadmap in Belgrade on 3 June 2025. At the meeting, Serbia’s results in this area, future plans, and projects providing

- donor support from international organisations working on arms control in Serbia were presented.
- Civil society organisations were not involved in the coordination of activities during this reporting period. On the other hand, in the planning and development of future activities within the strategic documents, a non-governmental organisation, the Association for Weapons of Serbia, is participating as a member of the Working Group for the preparation of the draft Programme and Action Plan.

## 2.3 Record keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives

### *Guiding questions:*

Is data<sup>3</sup> collection on distribution and impact of WAE standardized and institutionalized? If so, is the data collected on weapons, ammunition and explosives (where relevant) disaggregated by sex and age? If not, are there any ongoing steps taken in this regard?

- Law enforcement authorities in Serbia – namely the **Public Prosecutor’s Office**, the Mol and the courts – continuously collect data on firearms. Although data collection is standardised within each of these bodies, standardisation and institutionalisation of data collection across all law enforcement authorities have not yet been achieved.
- **The Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office compiles a consolidated annual statistical report for Serbia**, which includes the criminal offence of Unauthorised Production, Possession, Carrying and Trade in Weapons and Explosive Substances under Article 348 of the Criminal Code. The **Public Prosecutor’s Office maintains records by persons**.
- In the Supreme Court of Cassation, data collection is not yet institutionalised and there is no systematic collection of specific data. Instead, data are collected via the appellate courts for those criminal offences where a need arises. Basic and Higher Courts in Serbia act as courts of first instance for the criminal offence under Article 348 of the Criminal Code. The “Mega Libra” system is used for data processing. In the Mol, data collection on firearms is institutionalised. The Mol holds data on the sex and age of persons who commit criminal offences related to firearms, i.e. the offence under Article 348 of the Criminal Code of Serbia – Unauthorised Production, Possession, Carrying and Trade in Weapons and Explosive Substances – or other criminal offences involving the use of firearms, as well as data on the number of persons killed and injured by firearms, and on the offence under Article 347 of the Criminal Code – Manufacturing and Procurement of Weapons and Means Intended for the Commission of a Criminal Offence, which prescribes that “**whoever, for the purpose of committing a criminal offence, manufactures, procures or enables another person to obtain weapons, ammunition, explosive substances or mine-explosive devices, as well as the means necessary for their manufacture or poisons, shall be punished by imprisonment of one to five years**”. Records are kept of all actions undertaken to control the legal acquisition, possession and carrying of weapons. The records (on natural persons, legal entities and weapons) are kept permanently. Within the unified information system – the Mol JIS – there is a **centralised electronic database “Criminal Offences and Perpetrators”, which, among other things, contains data on criminal offences related to firearms. Data on perpetrators and persons victimised by these criminal offences can be disaggregated by sex and age (where such a request exists).**<sup>4</sup>
- **During the reporting period, the Mol further developed the “SALW Search” application**, previously developed within a UNDP project, in order to use more efficiently the interconnected databases of this application. The aim is to enable the application to contribute to more efficient searches by providing a narrower set of data queried in real time.
- In the field of firearms, the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance has, within its competences, established an effective system of information exchange with the Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade, as the lead ministry for the export and import of weapons. In

<sup>3</sup> This data can refer to established weapons registries, incident with firearms records, databases on seizures, etc.

<sup>4</sup> In order to generate more complete and accurate statistical reports, instructions have been given to ensure more comprehensive entry of means of commission of criminal offences and to improve control of data entry in the electronic database “Criminal Offences and Perpetrators”, so that, for this reason, the data will henceforth be statistically increased to a certain, improved extent.

accordance with its entrusted competences, authorised customs officers carrying out checks on passenger and/or goods traffic, in cases where they detect illegal small arms and light weapons, temporarily seize them by issuing a Certificate on Temporarily Seized Goods and immediately, without delay, transfer them to the jurisdiction of the MoI.

- The MoD, through the Military Security Agency (VBA) and the Military Police, exchanges information and other data on firearms with other competent official bodies. In addition, in the trade in arms and military equipment, bodies of the Ministry of Defence actively cooperate with other competent authorities in the process of issuing licences for the trade in arms and military equipment.
- The collection of criminal justice data is not institutionalised. Within the framework of the UNODC project “Criminal Justice Response to Illicit Arms Trafficking”, the third component relates to “Strengthening capacities for the systematic collection, analysis and monitoring of firearms data in the criminal justice sector, with a view to overseeing public policies and practices”, and it is envisaged that the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office will be the main implementing partner for this component. During the reporting period, and in connection with this work, meetings were held and information of relevance was exchanged for representatives of the member states’ authorities participating in the investigation team.

#### 2.4 Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and women’s participation in SALW control

##### *Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to address gender and age concerns and increase *women’s* participation in SALW control implemented during the reporting period? If so, please describe the activities.

In June 2025, video and photo material was recorded at the Bežanijska Kosa location for project promotional materials, which are being developed with the aim of raising awareness among women in the police to perform duties as police dog handlers, implemented within the framework of the project “Strengthening the Capacities of the MoI for More Effective Reduction, Prevention and Suppression of Illicit Trade and Misuse of SALW, Ammunition and Explosives”, supported by the OSCE. Work on the final version of all promotional materials (poster, brochure and video clip) is still ongoing. Policewomen from the Women in Police Network are contributing to this project and its activities.

#### 2.5 Information exchange among the police, prosecutor’s office and courts on WAE-related cases

##### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a system – partial or in development – for information exchange among the police, *prosecutor’s office, and courts on WAE-related cases*? If yes, please describe any elements currently functioning.

- In 2023, the Criminal Police Directorate launched activities under the project “Strengthening the Capacities of the MoI in the Fight against Serious and Organised Crime and Corruption through the Establishment of the SIDDA SIDNA Case Management System”. The project is implemented in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the INL Office in Belgrade, with the Italian company [SirFin.Pa.](#) involved in its implementation.
- Within the project, the establishment of a Case Management System (CMS) and the development of a new criminal investigations database are planned. The database will comprise several modules, some of which are currently in the testing phase. The project also foresees the possibility of establishing, in the coming period, a connection between the Criminal Police Directorate (UKP) and the Public Prosecutor’s Office for Organised Crime (TOK) via the CMS, given that the SIDDA SIDNA system has already been in use in the prosecution service for many years.

## 2.6 Domestic and international tracing of firearms

### *Guiding questions:*

Is tracing implemented systematically (where every seized firearm is being traced domestically and when needed internationally)? If not, were there any activities aiming to improve tracing of firearms?

- All information on seized or found weapons, ammunition and explosives received via INTERPOL and EUROPOL channels is forwarded in a timely manner to the competent authorities. Similarly, all requests from the relevant local authorities are promptly forwarded to EUROPOL (AP Weapons and Explosives) and to the relevant EU Member States and third parties that are **EUROPOL's operational partners, as well as, via INTERPOL's I-24/7 communication channel**, to interested partners.
- Serbia has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST) since 2019. In order to facilitate enhanced cooperation with EUROJUST, a Deputy Public Prosecutor has been appointed since 2020 as Liaison Prosecutor to EUROJUST. This Agreement significantly enhances the role and international cooperation of Serbia, as it enables faster and more direct communication and cooperation, as well as coordinated action in combating serious transnational crime, inter alia through the use of various EUROJUST mechanisms and tools, such as coordination meetings, coordination centres and Joint Investigation Teams (JITs).
- Of the total number of cases handled in the period from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, the Office of the Liaison Prosecutor of Serbia at EUROJUST registered 52 new operational cases. Of the total number of requests for assistance received and sent via EUROJUST, facilitating judicial cooperation and handled during the first half of 2025, two cases related to the criminal offence of unauthorised production, possession, carrying and trafficking of weapons and explosive substances. The competent authorities of Serbia also participated in five coordination meetings.
- During the period under review, seven Joint Investigation Teams in which Serbia was a member and which had been established in earlier periods remained active.
- Serbia continuously exchanges operational and strategic information and data with European Union law-enforcement agencies. Operational cooperation with EUROPOL is based on the Law on Ratification of the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Serbia and EUROPOL, which entered into force in 2014, together with the Memorandum of Understanding on Data Confidentiality and Security between Serbia and EUROPOL, and the Bilateral Agreement between Serbia and EUROPOL on establishing mutual connectivity between computer networks. The Ministry of Interior continuously exchanges operational and personal data, as well as all other data related to investigations at local, regional, and international level in the Western Balkans. Information is also exchanged with all Western Balkan partners, depending on the assessment and the channels used by the party with which information is being exchanged at a given time, through the protected systems of INTERPOL (I-24/7), EUROPOL (SIENA), the SELEC Centre, or via Liaison Officers (where they exist).
- All information on seized or found weapons, ammunition and explosives received via INTERPOL (I-24/7), EUROPOL (SIENA), the SELEC Centre or Liaison Officers is forwarded in a timely manner to the competent authorities. Likewise, all requests from the relevant local authorities are promptly forwarded to EUROPOL (AP Weapons and Explosives), to the relevant EU Member States and third parties (**EUROPOL's operational partners**), and via **INTERPOL's I-24/7 communication channel** to interested partners. It is planned that data from the KNO database will be automatically transferred into **INTERPOL's iARMS database**.
- In the first half of 2025, a total of 285 messages were exchanged in the area of combating illicit trafficking in firearms, of which 89 were sent and 196 received. Information was exchanged on seized weapons, persons found in illegal possession of weapons, organised criminal groups involved in illicit arms trafficking and arms-smuggling routes, as well as strategic information in the form of bulletins, early warnings, catalogues and other types of reports and analytical products.
- Existing international mechanisms are strengthened, inter alia, through regular exchange of

operational intelligence via international cooperation channels, the exchange of strategic information on newly identified modi operandi and arms-smuggling routes, participation in international events dedicated to this topic, and joint operational actions. The police endeavours to make maximum use of the investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL.

- To ensure more active participation in operational activities under the EMPACT OAPs, including the EMPACT OAP for the firearms priority, the Working Group on Alignment with EU Police Cooperation Instruments and the Further Development of International Operational Police Cooperation through the Implementation of the EU Policy Cycle, whose chair performs the function of the local EMPACT Coordinator, **has continued its work so as to make the Group's work more operational**, with a contact person appointed for each OAP and each Operational Action (OA) to improve coordination. The work of the Group has contributed to better coordination in monitoring the implementation of activities and reporting on them, and thus to more active use of the tools and support offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL. In line with the EMPACT OAP for the firearms priority (FIA) for 2024 and 2025, Serbian police have accepted participation in 10 OAs. In total, Serbian police participate in 73 operational activities under all 10 EMPACT OAPs for the period 2024–2025, and act as co-leader in four of these operational activities.
- The Mol **has access to INTERPOL's iARMS system for recording and monitoring illegal firearms**. Police officers act on requests from international parties submitted via iARMS and carry out firearms checks, as well as on requests from the competent organisational units of the Mol. Police officers of the Ministry of Interior of Serbia exchange information with all Western Balkan jurisdictions, depending on the assessment and the channels used by the party with which information is being exchanged at a given time, through the protected systems of INTERPOL (I-24/7), EUROPOL (SIENA) and via the SELEC Centre. In the previous period, 23 requests were received, of which four were answered and 12 remain in process. Regular entry of data on lost and stolen firearms will be possible once the unique database on lost and stolen firearms is connected and aligned with the iARMS database, after which data will be automatically transferred into that database. The development of an interface for connecting the databases is expected, and cooperation with INTERPOL General Secretariat has been established regarding the arrangements for linking the databases.
- Operational cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) is carried out on the basis of the Working Arrangement on the Establishment of Operational Cooperation between the Ministry of Interior of Serbia and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX) from 2009. In accordance with the Working Arrangement, the Border Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior collects and analyses data on seizures of weapons and ammunition. Border police officers report on a monthly basis, using a form prescribed by FRONTEX and harmonised with the format used by EU member states. In the reporting period, six regular monthly tables were submitted. In addition, in June 2024 the European Union and Serbia signed a Status Agreement on operational cooperation in border management with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX).
- **Within the FRONTEX "12G" application, data on seizures of weapons and ammunition are entered in the prescribed form**, which includes: the number of individual cases of detection of weapons and ammunition, the nationality of the person from whom they were detected, the type of weapon detected, the quantity of seized weapons, the number of seized weapon parts, the quantity of seized ammunition, the manner in which the person from whom the weapon was seized approached the control, the place of discovery, the registration plates of the vehicle where the weapon or ammunition was found, whether it was discovered at a border crossing point, whether it was discovered on entry into or exit from Serbia (specifying the particular border crossing point and its type).
- In accordance with the provisions of the Law on Border Control, weapons and ammunition may be carried across the border in accordance with the provisions of the law governing the acquisition, possession and carrying of weapons and ammunition. If, when crossing the border, a person fails to declare weapons and ammunition, the authority responsible for border control shall seize the weapons and ammunition and issue a certificate to that effect.

- Within its competences, and following Serbia’s renewed membership in the C.I.P., the Agency also monitors weapons, devices and ammunition. Implementation of the standards has begun, in cooperation with arms and ammunition manufacturers. With the arms manufacturer “Zastava Oružje”, the Agency has launched the process of testing manufactured weapons. With the ammunition manufacturer “Prvi Partizan”, type testing has been carried out for certain ammunition calibres. Within the C.I.P. organisation, training related to ammunition testing was conducted at an Italian proof house, attended by employees of the Agency.
- The total number of marked weapons in the period January–June 2025 is 8,262 pieces.

## 2.7 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- The need of standardised and institutionalised data across the competent authorities has been identified.
- As highlighted at the meeting organised by INTERPOL, support from the INTERPOL General Secretariat is required to establish/align an interface that will enable the direct transfer of data from the local database into iARMS.
- In addition, there is a need for support to the Agency for the Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Ammunition and Devices in establishing automated records, namely through the donation of software for this purpose.
- Support for the Agency has been presented to international organisations, but has not been provided to date.

## PODGORICA

### 2.1 Development and alignment of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a valid SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan in place? If so, is it aligned with the Roadmap? If not, has the process for developing the new SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan been initiated?

- Montenegro has in place the SALW Control Strategy 2019–2025, and its accompanying Action Plan. The Strategy is aligned with the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap.
- The SALW Commission of Montenegro has initiated the evaluation of the current SALW Control Strategy, which expires at the end of 2025, with SEESAC’s support. Following the evaluation of the existing Strategy, and with SEESAC expert assistance, work will commence on drafting a new Strategy and Action Plan aligned with the revised Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap 2025–2030. The start of these activities is planned for the third quarter of 2025.

### 2.2 Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of arms control activities

#### *Guiding questions:*

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how? Were civil society organizations included in the coordination activities?

The SALW Commission has been coordinating and monitoring activities in the area of SALW control, including:

- Participation by the head of the SALW Commission in the Annual Meeting of the Regional Steering Group on SALW, held online on 5 March 2025.
- Organizing the 13<sup>th</sup> Local Roadmap Coordination Meeting on 4 June 2025 to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap. During the meeting, the Commission reported on progress, challenges, and needs related to Roadmap implementation, drawing on the KPIs and the Narrative Report.
- Submission of the 13<sup>th</sup> Roadmap Progress Report to SEESAC, which was integrated into the 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Roadmap Progress Report.
- Initiating the evaluation of the existing SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan.

### 2.3 Record keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is data<sup>5</sup> collection on distribution and impact of WAE standardized and institutionalized? If so, is the data collected on weapons, ammunition and explosives (where relevant) disaggregated by sex and age? If not, are there any ongoing steps taken in this regard?

- With the aim of unifying and systematising data collection on incidents related to firearms, ammunition, and explosives, the FFP developed the Instruction on Procedures and Reporting Obligations via the *"Infostream" Application* for all events involving weapons, ammunition, and explosives. The Instruction was signed by the Minister on 15 December 2023 and forwarded to all Departments of the Police Directorate for further action.
- In accordance established FFP standards, and to improve monitoring and reporting, data are collected and analysed on:
  - Events – including information on the type of event, date and location, the competent police sector, and the quantity of seized/confiscated firearms;
  - Weapons – including the legal basis for seizure, type, make, calibre and serial number of the seized weapon, as well as data on ammunition (type, calibre, quantity of ammunition seized);
  - Individuals – including age, gender, and category of individuals (e.g., persons of operational interest, members of organised criminal groups, etc.), as well as information on victims in criminal offences such as murder, attempted murder, and suicide (gender and age structure).

### 2.4 Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and women's participation in SALW control

#### *Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to address gender and age concerns and increase *women's* participation in SALW control implemented during the reporting period? If so, please describe the activities.

- No relevant activities were reported during the reporting period.

### 2.5 Information exchange among the police, prosecutor's office and courts on WAE-related cases

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a system – partial or in development – for information exchange among the police, *prosecutor's office, and courts on WAE-related cases*? If yes, please describe any elements currently functioning.

A partially functioning system exists for information exchange among the police, prosecution, and courts regarding cases involving weapons, ammunition, and explosives. The system relies primarily on existing electronic platforms and formal institutional cooperation procedures. However, it is not

<sup>5</sup> This data can refer to established weapons registries, incident with firearms records, databases on seizures, etc.

yet fully integrated or unified across all aspects of such cases.

## 2.6 Domestic and international tracing of firearms

### *Guiding questions:*

Is tracing implemented systematically (where every seized firearm is being traced domestically and when needed internationally)? If not, were there any activities aiming to improve tracing of firearms?

- Yes. The FFP continuously exchanges information and submits tracing requests for stolen and lost firearms through both Europol’s SIENA communication channel and Interpol’s iARMS database. Trace requests are also sent for seized illicit firearms, particularly when the seizures are of operational interest. The objective for the upcoming period is to ensure information exchange with international partners for every seized illicit firearm.
- During the reporting period, the FFP (three Departments of the Police Directorate) submitted 72 SIENA messages/requests to foreign partner services and to Europol’s Firearms and Explosives Unit, requesting checks and providing notifications. These included 25 notifications concerning firearms reported as stolen or lost.
- In the iARMS database, a total of 32 firearms were entered during the same period:
  - 23 firearms entered through Firearms Registration Messages (FRM) for checks related to stolen/lost firearms;
  - 9 firearms for which a Trace Request Message (TRM) was issued, meaning a request to identify the owner of firearms found in Montenegro for which ownership is unknown.

## 2.7 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- Lack of integrated and interoperable information systems to enable efficient data exchange among the police, prosecution, courts, and other relevant institutions.
- Insufficient financial resources for the development and maintenance of information systems, as well as for the procurement of necessary equipment and technology.

## PRISTINA

### 2.1 Development and alignment of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a valid SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan in place? If so, is it aligned with the Roadmap? If not, has the process for developing the new SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan been initiated?

The 2024-2028 SALW Control Strategy on Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives and its Action Plan are in place and aligned with the Regional Roadmap 2025–2030.

### 2.2 Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of arms control activities

#### *Guiding questions:*

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how? Were civil society organizations included in the coordination activities?

The SALW Commission has been coordinating and monitoring activities in the area of SALW control, including:

- Convening a meeting of the working group on the SALW Control Strategy on Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives to evaluate the results of the Action Plan activities for 2024.
- Convening three meetings of the SALW Commission on Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives.
- Convening four meetings of the working group on the awareness-raising campaign “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Arms”.
- Participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> local coordination meeting on the Roadmap implementation, held in Pristina.
- Preparation and submission of the 13<sup>th</sup> Narrative Report and the KPI report for 2024 on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap.

## 2.3 Record keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives

### *Guiding questions:*

Is data<sup>6</sup> collection on distribution and impact of WAE standardized and institutionalized? If so, is the data collected on weapons, ammunition and explosives (where relevant) disaggregated by sex and age? If not, are there any ongoing steps taken in this regard?

- Data collection process requires further standardisation and improved efficiency of electronic systems.
- The SERA firearms database was subject to a contract for system upgrade and maintenance, which was subsequently terminated and is expected to be renewed soon.

## 2.4 Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and women’s participation in SALW control

### *Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to address gender and age concerns and increase *women’s* participation in SALW control implemented during the reporting period? If so, please describe the activities.

- No relevant activities have been reported during the reporting period.

## 2.5 Information exchange among the police, prosecutor’s office and courts on WAE-related cases

### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a system – partial or in development – for information exchange among the police, *prosecutor’s office, and courts on WAE-related cases*? If yes, please describe any elements currently functioning.

Yes. There is an electronic information exchange system in place between the police and the **Prosecutor’s Office, and the Prosecutor’s Office and courts regarding WAE-related cases** prosecuted and adjudicated, managed by the Judicial Council. Data is entered by the prosecution and the courts, while information entered into the police system is transferred to the prosecution’s database and vice versa.

## 2.6 Domestic and international tracing of firearms

---

<sup>6</sup> This data can refer to established weapons registries, incident with firearms records, databases on seizures, etc.

*Guiding questions:*

Is tracing implemented systematically (where every seized firearm is being traced domestically and when needed internationally)? If not, were there any activities aiming to improve tracing of firearms?

Yes. Tracing is conducted at the jurisdictional level and, when necessary, at the international level.

## 2.7 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- Continued improvement of databases related to firearms, ammunition, and explosives across relevant institutions.
- Developing institutional methods and practices for collecting data on firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
- Further improvement in data exchange remains necessary.

## SARAJEVO

### 2.1 Development and alignment of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap

*Guiding questions:*

Is there a valid SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan in place? If so, is it aligned with the Roadmap? If not, has the process for developing the new SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan been initiated?

Federal level (Ministry of Security/ SALW Coordination Board):

- Yes, the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control Strategy for the period 2025–2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation for the period 2025–2027 were adopted on 7 April 2025 at the 75th session of the Council of Ministers.
- Yes, they are fully aligned with the Roadmap.

### 2.2 Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of arms control activities

*Guiding questions:*

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how? Were civil society organizations included in the coordination activities?

Federal level (Ministry of Security/ SALW Coordination Board):

- Yes, the SALW Coordination Board coordinates and monitors the implementation of the Strategy and the Roadmap.
- The Coordination Board prepares the annual report for the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, actively participates in organising training sessions, and provides support for the implementation of projects conducted by OSCE, UNDP, UNODC, and other partners. Furthermore, the Board regularly convenes and organises local coordination meetings, coordinates and participates in regional meetings, and leads joint activities, such as organising ad hoc thematic meetings identified during the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan, including those related to harmonisation, the establishment of a firearms focal point, and similar initiatives.
- Civil society organisations were not invited in the coordination activities, but all activities of civil society organisations related to the area of SALW are supported.

- The Board participated in the regular online meeting of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) for SALW control in South Eastern Europe, held on 5 March 2025, co-chaired by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). During the meeting, SEESAC presented the results achieved in 2024 and the planned activities for 2025.
- The Coordination Board also held its regular local coordination meeting on 10 June 2025 in Sarajevo, supported by SEESAC. The meeting reviewed progress in implementing the Action Plan, including the enforcement of legal and by-law provisions, the improvement of arms and ammunition record systems, and the strengthening of institutional capacities involved in control measures. Particular attention was devoted to the harmonisation of firearms and ammunition legislation with the EU Acquis, as well as the planning of priority activities for the second half of 2025.
- On 26 June 2025 in Vienna, support was provided to the Chair of the SALW Coordination Board of BiH to participate in and deliver a presentation at the informal meeting “Overview of Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and Conventional Ammunition Stockpiles (SCA) in South Eastern Europe (SEE)”, held on the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) 2025. The meeting was organised under the Estonian Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).
- SIPA: Representatives of the SALW Section participate in the work of the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and, at the international level, take part in the EU Firearms Experts Committee (EFE) and the South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN). Their engagement focuses on discussing activities related to the implementation of the Operational Action Plan between the European Union and South Eastern European member states in combating illicit firearms trafficking, exchanging operational information and knowledge, and planning joint activities.

## 2.3 Record keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives

### Guiding questions:

Is data<sup>7</sup> collection on distribution and impact of WAE standardized and institutionalized? If so, is the data collected on weapons, ammunition and explosives (where relevant) disaggregated by sex and age? If not, are there any ongoing steps taken in this regard?

#### Federal level (Prosecutor’s office BiH, SIPA, Border Police BiH):

- **Prosecutor’s office:** The Prosecutor’s Office uses the TCMS system, which contains relevant data. Statistical data are disaggregated by type of criminal offence, not by sex or age.
- SIPA: Data are collected through regular reporting – daily, monthly, quarterly, and annually.
- Border Police BiH: Through its regular operational activities in documenting firearms-related criminal offences, the Border Police carries out the processing and identification of perpetrators of such offences. In accordance with the reporting instruction, all persons are categorised in the reporting tables by sex, age, nationality, and other relevant criteria.

#### Republika Srpska Mol

- The Law on Weapons and Ammunition establishes the framework for maintaining records on weapons and ammunition, further detailed in the Rulebook on the Content, Manner of Keeping, and Retention Periods of Records Maintained by the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska (Official Gazette of RS Nos. 50/17, 102/18, 114/20, 129/22, 6/23, and 48/25).
- The content and method of maintaining records on weapons and ammunition are specifically defined in the Rulebook on the Content and Manner of Keeping Records on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of RS No. 94/16).

#### Federal Mol

- Yes, the data collected within the Federal Police Administration (FUP) are statistically disaggregated by sex and age group.
- Representatives of the cantonal Ministries of Interior continued activities to improve the weapons record-keeping system, with the support of the UNDP BiH project. During the reporting period,

<sup>7</sup> This data can refer to established weapons registries, incident with firearms records, databases on seizures, etc.

significant progress was achieved — all cantonal institutions formally approved the technical specifications, and technical consultations were held regarding the development of a new application for the registration of legally owned firearms in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with full respect for the competences of the cantonal Ministries of Interior.

#### Una-Sana Canton Mol

- Partially. The Rulebook on the Forms, Content and Method of Maintaining Records on Weapons and Ammunition by the Competent Authority (“Official Gazette of the Una-Sana Canton”, No. 23/22) establishes the following registers:
  - issued weapon licences;
  - issued authorisations for the possession of firearms;
  - issued permits for carrying firearms;
  - issued weapon licences for the possession of antique weapons;
  - issued authorisations for the possession of antique weapons.

#### Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- Data collection is standardized. However, the data are not disaggregated by sex or age. No steps have been taken in this regard.
- No activities have been undertaken to increase the participation of women in arms control.

#### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- The collection of data on the distribution and impact of weapons, ammunition, and explosives is partially standardised and institutionalised at the cantonal level.
- Data on sex and age are fully integrated.
- The collection of data on the distribution and impact of weapons, ammunition, and explosives is partially standardised and institutionalised at the cantonal level.

#### Canton 10 Mol

- The Mol of Canton 10 has granted its consent for the development and implementation of the project “Management of Records on Legally Owned Firearms in the Federation of BiH”, which aims to enhance the digital capacities of police agencies regarding databases and record-keeping of legally owned firearms. Two representatives have been appointed to participate in the Working Group for the Implementation of the Project.
- Within the framework of the project “Enhancement of Arms Control Measures in Canton 10”, Norwegian People’s Aid provided part of the equipment for maintaining electronic records of weapons held in storage or confiscated in misdemeanour or criminal proceedings.
- The new draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition of Canton 10 envisages the establishment of an electronic database on civilian-owned firearms.

Tuzla Canton Mol and West-Herzegovina Canton Mol reported institutionalized and standardized data collection but provided no details. Data disaggregated by sex and age is reported as not established by West-Herzegovina Canton Mol.

Brcko District Police, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, and Sarajevo Canton Mol reported no standardized and institutionalised data collection.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol and Posavina Canton Mol provided no information.

## 2.4 Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and women’s participation in SALW control

### Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender and age concerns and increase *women’s* participation in SALW control implemented during the reporting period? If so, please describe the activities.

Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority – ITA, Border Police BiH, SIPA)

- Ministry of Security of BiH (Coordination Board for Gender Equality): In cooperation with its affiliated agencies, the Ministry of Security of BiH is implementing the Gender Equality Seal (GES) project for public institutions, with the goal of obtaining certification of compliance with GES

programme standards and an accompanying recognition medal.

- As part of the ongoing efforts to advance gender equality, a workshop dedicated to developing the GES Action Plan was held on 19–20 May 2025 on Mount Igman near Sarajevo. The workshop was organised by the Coordination Board, with the support of UNDP BiH and under the patronage of the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, as co-lead of gender equality programmes and initiatives. Guided by the Global GES Team, the workshop served as a strategic platform to identify key priorities and define concrete steps to strengthen gender equality within the Ministry of Security of BiH. The Action Plan was developed and adopted during the event, providing a clear framework and structure for further progress toward fulfilling the GES standards.
- As the concluding activity in this reporting period, a workshop on Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) was held on 26 June 2025 in Sarajevo. Recognised as one of the priority areas requiring additional expert support under the GES Action Plan, the workshop was tailored for the staff of the Ministry of Security and contributed to capacity-building and further progress toward achieving GES certification.

Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH: To promote the increased participation of women in small arms and light weapons (SALW) control, female police officers from the Directorate participated in the project implemented by the Association “Network of Policewomen”, titled “Strengthening the Capacity of the Association ‘Network of Policewomen’ for the Prevention of the Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH.”

- The project was supported by UNDP BiH through the initiative “Enhancing the Capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies in the Field of SALW Control.” During the reporting period, two workshops were held under this project, entitled “Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” attended by female police officers from various law enforcement agencies across BiH.
- The workshops aimed to enhance participants’ understanding of SALW misuse and control issues and the current situation in BiH, with a focus on gender-based violence in the context of firearms misuse, relevant legislation and policy frameworks, and the activities of the SALW Coordination Board in line with the SALW Strategy. The training also aimed to prepare participants for more active involvement in these processes in the future.
- Additionally, in April 2025, a round table was held in Konjic under the title “Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” The event aimed to strengthen cooperation between the Network of Policewomen and relevant institutions in the field of SALW control and marked the final activity of the above-mentioned project. Recognising that the Action Plan of the SALW Control Strategy identifies the need to integrate the gender perspective into control measures and to promote greater participation of women and civil society organisations, the Association considered it essential for its members to acquire the necessary knowledge to engage more effectively in these processes.
- ITA: During the reporting period, no specific programmes were implemented exclusively dedicated to gender equality in the field of SALW control. However, within international and regional projects, including the regional project “Hermes,” launched by UNODC in March 2023 under its Global Firearms Programme (GFP), which focuses on combating the trafficking of firearms, parts, and ammunition through express courier and postal shipments, a number of trainings and workshops were held. These activities recorded notable participation of women from the ITA BiH and public postal operators in BiH, both in operational and managerial roles, thereby contributing to the increased participation of women in SALW control.
- Border Police BiH: The Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina maintains an established and sustainable cooperation with the Association “Network of Policewomen” in promoting and raising awareness of the importance of gender equality in the security sector. During the reporting period, representatives of the Border Police participated in workshops organised by the Association on the topic “Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.” The aim of the workshops was to enhance police officers’ knowledge on issues related to the misuse and control of SALW and the current situation in BiH, with a focus on gender-based violence and on familiarising participants with the activities of the SALW Coordination Board and the measures undertaken in line with the SALW Control Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Republika Srpska Mol

- Within the framework of the project “Enhancing the Police Response to the Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)”, implemented by the Women’s Network of the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska with the financial support of UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a handbook titled “Enhancing the Police Response to the Misuse of SALW” was distributed within the Ministry in April. The handbook was authored and developed by members of the Women’s Network, together with other officials of the Ministry. In addition, the Women’s Network of the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska is actively participating in the implementation of the UNDP project “Enhancing the Capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Area of Small Arms and Light Weapons – LEAD.”

#### Una-Sana Canton Mol

- During the reporting period, no activities were carried out specifically aimed at addressing gender or age-related issues. However, with regard to increasing the participation of women in SALW control, the Director of the Police Administration, in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, appointed a woman representative to the Supervisory Commission of the Police Administration of the Ministry of Interior of the Una-Sana Canton.

#### Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- During the reporting period, no specific projects related to gender equality in the field of arms control were implemented. However, during the drafting of the Law on the Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition, three female officials from the Ministry and the Police Administration participated as members of the drafting team.

#### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- Internal workshops and training sessions were organised within the Ministry of Interior of the Central Bosnia Canton (SBK/KSB) to raise awareness of gender equality and promote the inclusion of women in all aspects of police work, including arms control.
- In training programmes on interaction among individuals, permit issuance, and inspection oversight, particular emphasis is placed on the importance of integrating the gender perspective into data collection and risk assessment.
- Active efforts are also being made to include female representatives in working groups and teams responsible for preparing analyses and reports on arms control.

#### Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol

- Relevant activities were conducted through participation in the meetings of the Network of Women Police Officers, upon their request. During these meetings, all possible assistance and support were provided to facilitate women’s involvement in SALW-related activities.

SIPA, Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, Sarajevo Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol reported no activities.

Federal Mol and Posavina Canton Mol provided no information.

## 2.5 Information exchange among the police, prosecutor’s office and courts on WAE-related cases

### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a system – partial or in development – for information exchange among the police, *prosecutor’s office, and courts on WAE-related cases*? If yes, please describe any elements currently functioning.

#### Federal level (SIPA, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, ITA)

- SIPA: The Agency has submitted reports on criminal offences related to the unauthorised trafficking and possession of firearms, in accordance with the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the relevant entity legislation. As part of its regular operations, information exchange is carried out through EUROPOL, making full use of the cooperation mechanisms and assistance it provides. Communication and operational cooperation have been established in specific investigative cases concerning the unauthorised trafficking of firearms and drugs.

- Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies: There is no established information exchange system within the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ITA: There is no unified, fully interoperable IT system that connects customs, police, prosecutors, and courts in real time. In cases involving weapons, ammunition, and explosives, information exchange currently takes place through standard reports and procedures, as well as via international channels such as INTERPOL and EUROPOL.

#### Republika Srpska Mol

- The Agreement on the Establishment of an Electronic Data Exchange System between police bodies and prosecutors' offices, dated 31 September 2010, provides for the electronic exchange of data from specific official records. Under this agreement, the exchange of information from the Prosecutors' Offices' Register of Issued Orders for the Conduct of Investigations is envisaged.

#### Federal Mol

The Federal Police Administration acts on the basis of orders issued by competent courts (Municipal, Cantonal, and the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina). Furthermore, seized weapons are deposited in accordance with court orders and subsequently destroyed upon new court mandates. For all official actions undertaken, police officers prepare confirmations, official records, and photographic documentation, which are then submitted to the competent courts or prosecutors' offices.

#### Tuzla Canton Mol

- Yes. Information exchange between the police, prosecutors, and courts is carried out in accordance with the established procedures and reporting obligations (both oral and written). Under Article 233 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Federation of BiH, this process is regulated through the "Supervision of Prosecutors over the Work of Authorised Officials."
- The exchange of information with the courts is also governed by the Criminal Procedure Code of the Federation of BiH, which stipulates the deadlines and content of reports on measures and actions undertaken. Furthermore, regarding the stages of proceedings, as well as decisions and verdicts rendered, the courts and prosecutors report to the Police Administration for the purpose of maintaining records within the competent jurisdictions.

#### Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- A unified system for information exchange between the police, prosecutors' offices, and the judiciary regarding firearms under investigation or subject to a court verdict has not been established.

#### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- The Central Bosnia Canton Mol uses the existing cantonal system for information exchange and cooperation with the SBK/KSB Prosecutor's Office and the competent courts in cases related to weapons, ammunition, and explosives. The system is partially standardised and operates within regular police-judicial communication procedures but is not yet fully automated or integrated into a unified database.
- The Central Bosnia Canton Mol regularly submits reports, records, and notes on seized weapons and ammunition, as well as other relevant materials, to the competent prosecutors' offices. The prosecutors' offices, in turn, provide the Mol with orders to investigate, decisions on the initiation of investigations, and updates on the status of criminal cases.
- Regular meetings are held between the Mol and the prosecutors' offices in Central Bosnia Canton to exchange information, plan investigations, and coordinate with the courts regarding hearing schedules, the delivery of court rulings, and judgments. The Mol maintains records of police cases related to the unauthorised possession, trade, or misuse of weapons, ammunition, and explosives.
- Data from police records are cross-checked with information from the prosecutors' offices and courts to ensure complete documentation and effective monitoring of case outcomes. The system is partially functional, relying on a combination of electronic and paper-based data exchange.
- Planned improvements include:
  - integration of records into a unified electronic database;
  - faster and more standardised information exchange between the police, prosecutors' offices, and courts;
  - development of procedures for automatic case tracking from investigation to final judgment.

#### Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol

- A systematic mechanism does not exist; information exchange takes place only on an ad hoc basis, that is, as needed in individual cases related to firearms.

West-Herzegovina Canton MoI

- Yes, there is excellent cooperation and information exchange with the municipal and cantonal courts. Following a verdict, the filing of an indictment, or a report of a criminal offence or misdemeanour involving elements of violence, the competent police administration verifies whether the perpetrator legally possesses a firearm. If so, the firearm is immediately confiscated.

Canton 10 MoI

- **Yes. There is an electronic data exchange system between police bodies and prosecutors' offices, covering records on firearms searches and firearms registries.**

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton MoI, and Canton Sarajevo MoI reported no activities.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI and Posavina Canton MoI provided no information.

## 2.6 Domestic and international tracing of firearms

### *Guiding questions:*

Is tracing implemented systematically (where every seized firearm is being traced domestically and when needed internationally)? If not, were there any activities aiming to improve tracing of firearms?

Federal level (SIPA, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, ITA)

- Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies: The Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the NCB INTERPOL Sarajevo Section, has access to the iARMS database and uses it in accordance with its mandate. Access to this database is available to all police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At present, all agencies have signed the Agreement on the Use of iARMS, except for the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska, with which the agreement has not yet been concluded. During the reporting period, the Directorate processed several cases and requests related to firearms. 67 new cases were opened, of which:
  - 66 were opened at the request of INTERPOL member states in relation to illicit firearms trafficking,
  - one was opened at the request of domestic law enforcement agencies.

During the reporting period, through the iARMS application, the NCB INTERPOL Sarajevo Section received four trace requests from other INTERPOL member states. Republika Srpska MoI:

- Tracing
- of located and/or seized firearms and ammunition is carried out by recording the items in the appropriate registers, with the specific register used depending on the legal basis for the entry.

Federal MoI

- The Federal Police Administration systematically monitors seizures within its domestic jurisdiction. These activities include the collection, processing, and analysis of data on seized, found, and confiscated weapons, as well as the maintenance of corresponding records.

Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI

- Tracing
- of weapons was conducted in accordance with available capabilities and the tools employed for that purpose at both local and international levels.

Central Bosnia Canton MoI

- The Ministry of Interior of the Central Bosnia Canton (MUP SBK/KSB) maintains written records for each seized or recovered firearm. A unified electronic tracking database has not yet been established.
- The records include information on the type of weapon, serial number, previous owner, and circumstances of the seizure. These data are used to trace the origin of weapons, identify related criminal offences, and support criminal investigations.
- International-level tracking is carried out as needed, through the competent federal channels.

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton MoI, and West-Herzegovina Canton MoI reported tracing to be implemented systematically but provided no detail.

Tuzla Canton MoI, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI reported no implementation of systematic tracing.

Posavina Canton MoI and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI provided no information.

## 2.7 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

No challenges or needs for support have been reported.

## SKOPJE

### 2.1 Development and alignment of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is there a valid SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan in place? If so, is it aligned with the Roadmap? If not, has the process for developing the new SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan been initiated?

No valid SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan was in force during the reporting period. The drafting of the new strategy has commenced, with plans to submit it to the Government for adoption by the end of 2025, and for it to enter into force in January 2026, as foreseen in the Annual Programme of the Government.

### 2.2 Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of arms control activities

#### *Guiding questions:*

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how? Were civil society organizations included in the coordination activities?

The SALW Commission has been coordinating and monitoring activities in the area of SALW control, including:

- Initiating the drafting of the new SALW Control strategy and action plan that will be aligned with the Regional Roadmap 2025-2030.
- Convening meetings of the SALW Commission to coordinate activities on improving weapons storage facilities, on the process of identifying weapons and ammunition for destruction, and initiating new project proposals. Civil society organisations were not involved in these activities.
- Participating in meetings with international organisations related to projects on SALW.
- Participation by the head of the SALW Commission in the Annual Meeting of the Regional Steering Group on SALW, held online on 5 March 2025.
- Submitting data to SEESAC through the 13<sup>th</sup> Progress Narrative Report on the implementation of the Roadmap, covering the period 01 June-31 December 2024.
- Organising the 13<sup>th</sup> Local Roadmap Coordination meeting on 17 June 2015, to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap. During the meeting, the SALW Commission reported on progress, challenges, and needs related to Roadmap implementation, drawing on the Narrative Report and the KPIs.

### 2.3 Record keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives

*Guiding questions:*

Is data<sup>8</sup> collection on distribution and impact of WAE standardized and institutionalized? If so, is the data collected on weapons, ammunition and explosives (where relevant) disaggregated by sex and age? If not, are there any ongoing steps taken in this regard?

- The new application for the Alphabetical Index and Criminality enables the standardised recording of data on criminal offences involving firearms, offenders, injured parties, and victims, disaggregated by sex and age. In addition, the upgrade of the Police Information Management System (MEIDA) with additional functionalities, including functionalities for domestic violence cases was initiated.
- As part of the activities on advancing CSI evidence collection methods, a three-day Workshop on implementing a gender-sensitive approach for CSI officers was held in Berovo – with participation of police officers from all the Sectors for Internal Affairs across North Macedonia, as well as officials from the Forensic Examination Department of the Ministry of Interior. For more details, please see the answer on question 5 under the Goal 3.

## 2.4 Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and women’s participation in SALW control

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to address gender and age concerns and increase *women’s* participation in SALW control implemented during the reporting period? If so, please describe the activities.

Women’s participation in SALW control is at a satisfactory level. Women are significantly represented in the SALW Commission, as well as in the organisational units responsible for issuing firearms permits and in operational units involved in firearms-related investigations.

## 2.5 Information exchange among the police, prosecutor’s office and courts on WAE-related cases

*Guiding questions:*

Is there a system – partial or in development – for information exchange among the police, *prosecutor’s office, and courts on WAE*-related cases? If yes, please describe any elements currently functioning.

An electronic system ensuring full traceability of all cases among the police, prosecution, and judiciary does not exist. Communication among these institutions is conducted through established agreements on the electronic exchange of data and information, which allow access to data on specific cases.

## 2.6 Domestic and international tracing of firearms

*Guiding questions:*

Is tracing implemented systematically (where every seized firearm is being traced domestically and when needed internationally)? If not, were there any activities aiming to improve tracing of firearms?

Yes. Monitoring at the international level is carried out systematically, with jurisdictional services providing the required data to the Sector for International Police Cooperation.

## 2.7 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

<sup>8</sup> This data can refer to established weapons registries, incident with firearms records, databases on seizures, etc.

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

The need for support in drafting the new Strategy and Action Plan was identified, and such support was provided by SEESAC.

## TIRANA

### 2.1 Development and alignment of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans with the Roadmap

*Guiding questions:*

Is there a valid SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan in place? If so, is it aligned with the Roadmap? If not, has the process for developing the new SALW Control Strategy and/or Action Plan been initiated?

- The SALW Commission has completed the drafting of the New Strategy for the Control of SALW, Ammunition, and Explosives for the period 2025–2030, along with its Action Plan 2025–2028. These documents are currently under review and in the process of approval by the Council of Ministers.
- The new SALW control strategy is based on and harmonised with the revised Regional Roadmap 2025–2030. It adopts the overall approach of the Roadmap while it introduces specific interventions, tailored to the local needs. The new security context in the region, its impact on SALW control, and challenges identified during the implementation of the previous strategy will serve as the foundation of the new SALW control strategy.
- Feedback and suggestions from SEESAC during the consultation process have been incorporated into the draft strategy. Furthermore, planned activities from ongoing OSCE and UNDP projects have also been integrated into the action plan.

### 2.2 Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of arms control activities

*Guiding questions:*

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how? Were civil society organizations included in the coordination activities?

- The SALW Commission, as an inter-ministerial body, is responsible for coordinating the collecting information and statistics from relevant institutions regarding measures for the control of SALW, ammunition, and explosives. It also ensures and monitors the fulfilment of the obligations of Albania under ratified international agreements in the field of arms control. The SALW Commission was actively involved in drafting the new SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan.
- In April 2025, the SALW Commission submitted the progress reports on the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap for the period July - December 2024, including both the narrative and the key performance indicators reports.
- On 12 June 2025, the Commission on SALW held its 13th meeting, which focused on implementing the Regional Roadmap for Small Arms and Light Weapons. Several institutions participated in this meeting, including: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, the Export Control Authority, General Directorate of Prisons, General Directorate of the Police, General Directorate of Customs, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sports, and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

### 2.3 Record keeping and data collection practices on weapons, ammunition, and explosives

*Guiding questions:*

Is data<sup>9</sup> collection on distribution and impact of WAE standardized and institutionalized? If so, is the data collected on weapons, ammunition and explosives (where relevant) disaggregated by sex and age? If not, are there any ongoing steps taken in this regard?

- Data on firearms, ammunition, and explosives can be obtained from various official sources such as databases of the Albanian Police, official crime statistics, the daily communication database, and the System for the Registration of Firearms (SIMA).
- The collection of data related to the distribution and impact of firearms is carried out through reports from the electronic daily communication system, which can be accessed at any time when needed or requested. Additionally, through the statistical report of the daily communication system, data on seizures can be extracted for any required time period, including geographic breakdowns. In the case of Albania, this is organised by Local Police Directorates. The collected data is also categorised by gender and age groups of the individuals involved.

## 2.4 Addressing gender aspects of firearms demand and misuse and women's participation in SALW control

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to address gender and age concerns and increase *women's* participation in SALW control implemented during the reporting period? If so, please describe the activities.

During the reporting period, no activities took place aiming at addressing gender and age concerns, and increasing women's participation in SALW control.

## 2.5 Information exchange among the police, prosecutor's office and courts on WAE-related cases

*Guiding questions:*

Is there a system – partial or in development – for information exchange among the police, *prosecutor's office, and courts on WAE-related cases*? If yes, please describe any elements currently functioning.

Related to criminal justice data exchange, the Police Case Management System is in place – created for accessing and inputting data related to a criminal case, including those involving the use of firearms by the Police, the prosecution, and courts. Currently, the system is used and updated with data only by the Police and is not yet functional for data from the prosecution and the courts. The system is designed with the aim of producing analytical reports on criminal justice data. Institutional information exchange continues to be conducted through written communication.

## 2.6 Domestic and international tracing of firearms

*Guiding questions:*

Is tracing implemented systematically (where every seized firearm is being traced domestically and when needed internationally)? If not, were there any activities aiming to improve tracing of firearms?

- The FFP systematically implements the tracing process for every seized firearm that has identifiable data. Tracing is conducted through the domestic SIMA system as well as the international INTERPOL iARMS system.
- In this context, the FFP submits tracing requests to law enforcement authorities of other parties through EUROPOL, INTERPOL, and Liaison Officers. It also provides information in response to

<sup>9</sup> This data can refer to established weapons registries, incident with firearms records, databases on seizures, etc.

requests received from international parties or domestic institutions, such as other structures of the Police or the Prosecutor's Office.

## 2.7 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- During the assessment process, a number of needs were identified in relation to improving the working conditions of members of the criminalistics service, both at the central level and within its subordinate structures in the regional departments. A considerable part of these needs concerns the premises where activities are carried out, some of which require reconstruction, adaptation, or new equipment to ensure the necessary standards for conducting investigative and laboratory operations.
- The process of identifying needs and preparing the request was carried out in cooperation with the relevant structures, based on an analysis of the current situation and urgent priorities to increase operational efficiency and the quality of work.
- The implementation of these interventions and the provision of material support are essential for strengthening the professional and technical capacities of the criminalistics service, in line with contemporary standards of police work.
- Following the process of identifying the needs for improving working conditions in the forensic service, several priority issues have been identified related to workspaces, material resources, and specialized equipment.
- Regarding the premises (offices and the building of the Scientific Police Institute), formal support has been secured; however, up to this stage, no concrete developments have been made to improve the infrastructure conditions.
- Concerning material resources, equipment, and materials for everyday use, support has been provided by SEESAC, which includes a range of necessary equipment for carrying out forensic activities and improving the technical capacities of the service. However, this support does not include vehicles, which remain another outstanding request.
- Regarding the material base, a request has been prepared and submitted to SEESAC with the aim of supporting the provision of specialised and necessary equipment to enhance the technical capacities of the criminalistics service.
- Despite the support provided in certain areas, the needs for infrastructure improvements and the provision of transportation means remain a priority for enhancing work efficiency and ensuring the required standards in criminalistics activities.

## ROADMAP GOAL 3

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition, and explosives (KPIs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8)

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Substantially strengthen risk analysis systems, control, monitoring and prevention of diversion from legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency.</li> <li>2. Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.</li> <li>3. Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback.</li> <li>4. Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession, and trafficking of WAE.</li> </ol>
Progress information on Goal 3 Overall Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening risk analysis systems and preventing the diversion of arms exports;</li> <li>2. Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE;</li> <li>3. Control mechanisms for explosive precursors;</li> <li>4. Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units;</li> <li>5. Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories;</li> <li>6. Increased capacities for online firearm-related crime investigations.</li> <li>7. Integration of the gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations;</li> <li>8. Establishment and operationalization of Firearms Focal Points</li> <li>9. Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences;</li> <li>10. Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation.</li> <li>11. Participation in Joint Action Days (JADs);</li> <li>12. Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and Europol;</li> <li>13. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.</li> </ol>

## BELGRADE

### 3.1 Strengthening Risk Analysis Systems and Preventing the Diversion of Arms Exports

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period? Did you publish an annual report on arms exports?

- No cases of diversion of arms exports into illicit channels were reported during the reporting period.
- Annual reports on arms and military equipment export and import are submitted in line with international obligations under ATT. In the reporting period, no report was submitted due to the caretaker (technical) mandate of the Government. In the previous period, all reports were transparent, without restricted sections, and have been publicly available to all ATT States Parties. The most recent report was published in 2023.

### 3.2 Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were any activities undertaken during the reporting period to strengthen border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE? If yes, please describe the activities, type of border (land, air, maritime), and any cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions or international partners.

- During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out to strengthen capacities of the Border Police:
  - From 4 to 6 March 2025, the Border Police Directorate participated in FRONTEX's annual meeting in Warsaw, Poland, which focused on risk analysis related to irregular migration, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking. Training sessions were also held on "Combating Cross-Border Crime – Raising Awareness of Participation in EMPACT Activities and New Trends in Combating Arms Smuggling".
  - From 12 to 14 May 2025, a training of trainers on the Integrated Border Management System was conducted on the topic: "Inspection of buses, cargo and passenger vehicles to detect smuggled weapons, explosives and drugs within the integrated border management system", within the framework of the EU project "Support to Efficient Border Management".

### 3.3 Control mechanisms for explosive precursors

#### *Guiding question:*

Is there a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors? If not, has work been initiated in establishing such mechanism? If so, please provide details on the establishment process.

Control mechanisms for explosives precursors were not established during the reporting period, but the possibility of extending the competences of certain authorities to cover this area was considered. Activities representing steps towards establishing this control system have been introduced and defined in the Draft Action Plan 2025–2027 for the implementation of the SALW Control Programme 2025–2030.

### 3.4 Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your Crime Scene Investigation unit been accredited? If not, are there any steps/activities undertaken in this regard?

- The Crime Scene Investigation Unit has not yet been accredited. During the first half of the year, preparations were carried out for the implementation of the workshop "Introduction to ILAC G19 – Modules of the Forensic Science Process in Practice", during which police officers working in operational forensics from all regional police directorates of the MoI will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the basics of ILAC G19, its purpose, and its relationship with international standards ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020.
- Two representatives of the Crime Scene Investigation Unit, (two police officers from the Belgrade Police Directorate dealing with digital investigations) attended a regional workshop on electronic evidence collection in February 2025. The workshop was organised within the framework of the project "Support to Strengthening the Fight against the Illicit Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans – Multi-beneficiary IPA 2020 Programme", organised by SEESAC.
- Equipment was donated to the unit dealing with fire and explosion investigations within the Criminal-Technical Centre, under the project "Enhancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the Area of Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, Phase 3". The donation consisted of various

tools, four tool cabinets, eight digital vernier callipers, four measuring tapes and twelve pieces of insulating tape, four cordless precision drill-grinders, four inspection cameras with laptop computers, and one table for the examination of explosives. In April 2025, a training course on forensic processing of explosion and fire scenes was held within the project, attended by two representatives of the NCKF and 25 representatives of regional police directorates. In May 2025, a visit by representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Serbia took place, along with a second bilateral meeting of experts from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of explosions, fires and major incidents under the project.

- In May 2025, construction works began at the Regional Criminal Forensics Centres in Užice and Niš, as well as at the Department for Operational Forensics of the Belgrade City Police Directorate. Works in Niš and Belgrade were completed in June 2025, while completion of works in Užice is expected in August 2025.

### 3.5 Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your ballistic laboratory been accredited? If yes, please indicate which methods are accredited. If not, please describe the steps/activities undertaken in this regard.

- The Ballistics Laboratory was accredited in the second half of 2023. Support in this process was provided through cooperation between Serbia and the UNDP, aimed at achieving international standards and accreditation. This cooperation continues under Phase III of the project, which was approved in November 2023. The Guidelines on SOPs for the work of forensic experts in the examination of explosive ordnance were drafted in 2024, and are expected to be adopted soon.
- In the period between 1 January and 30 June 2025, the following activities were implemented:
  - An expert from the Ballistics Laboratory participated in the Annual Regional Workshop for FFPs, where issues related to convertible weapons in Serbia were presented.
  - A meeting was held with representatives of the Embassy of France in Belgrade and the Head of Programme of the EU Delegation to Serbia on the work of the Ballistics Laboratory and the operation of the Evofinder system.
  - In May 2025, a representative of the Ballistics Laboratory participated in the annual FFP meeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to present the line of work related to weapons examination.
  - An internal audit was carried out by representatives of the NCKF Quality Control Unit and the Section for Ballistic Analyses and Examinations of the NCKF in the ballistics laboratories of the Regional Criminal Forensics Centres, as a prerequisite for their accreditation.
  - **Within the project, reconstruction of the premises of the Ballistics Laboratory in Niš was carried out as a prerequisite for its accreditation.**
  - Work commenced on the adaptation and reconstruction of the premises of the Regional Criminal Forensics Centre (RCKF) Užice to improve the conditions for the receipt, storage and dispatch of traces, as well as to strengthen the capacities of the Ballistics Laboratory.
  - Work is under way on the preparation of documentation for two new methods that need to be developed: measurement of the velocity of fired projectiles and measurement of weapon trigger pull force.
  - A list of the necessary equipment for work in the ballistics laboratories was prepared. Part of the equipment required for expert examination of explosive ordnance was procured.
  - **The “Evofinder” and “Traffic” systems have been incorporated into the Police work and are in continuous use.** During the reporting period, 132 projectiles (996 in total entered by 30 June 2025) and 179 cartridge cases (1,855 in total entered by 30 June 2025) were entered into the Evofinder Automatic Ballistic Identification System. When checking test-fired cartridge cases from weapons via the Evofinder ABIS, a positive match was obtained with cartridge cases from the database of cartridge cases from unsolved criminal offences (Open Case Files).
  - A validation experiment was carried out and a validation report produced for the method “Ballistic analysis and comparative expert examination of fired projectiles”.

### 3.6 Increased capacities for online firearm-related crime investigations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities aiming to increase capacities of cybercrime units related to firearms online investigations during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.

- To strengthen online investigations into illicit firearms trafficking, the Mol is participating in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe – **Ceasefire: “Advanced versatile artificial intelligence technologies and interconnected cross-sectoral fully-operational focal points for combating illicit firearms trafficking”**.
- On 21–22 May 2025, the Mol organised pilot testing of the CEASEFIRE programme in cooperation with the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies (KPU) in Belgrade. The programme is intended to enable searches of open and closed data sources related to weapons. In this context, police officers with the support of officers from the High-Tech Crime Department, carried out searches on the dark net and deep web (the search was conducted in a controlled environment, not in real time).

### 3.7 Integration of a gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken to integrate gender perspective into regular procedures and daily operations related to WAE investigations? If yes, please provide details.<sup>10</sup>

Under the project “Strengthening the Capacities of Serbia’s Mol for More Effective Reduction, Prevention and Suppression of Illicit Trafficking and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives”, implemented by the OSCE, the following activities were undertaken:

- Awareness-raising activities among women in the Police to serve as service dog handlers. In June 2025, video and photo materials were recorded at the **Bežanijska Kosa** location for project promotional materials (posters, brochures, and video spots) which are under development. Policewomen from the Network of Women in the Police are contributing to these activities.
- As part of the appointment of contact points for EMPACT FIX operational actions for the next 2026–2029 cycle, a female police officer was appointed alongside the existing contact points for operational actions.

### 3.8 Establishment and operationalization of Firearms Focal Point

*Guiding questions:*

Is a Firearms Focal Point fully operational? More specifically:

- 1) Is the FFP collecting and sharing data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives?
- 2) Is the FFP responsible for tracing and sending or answering to tracing requests?
- 3) Has FFP direct access to SIENA?
- 4) Is the FFP collecting and sharing ballistic data?
- 5) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with any other jurisdiction? If so, which ones?
- 6) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with the EU Member States? If so, which ones?
- 7) Does FFP develop reports or knowledge products? If yes, please specify which products were produced in the reporting period, and to whom were these delivered.

---

<sup>10</sup> This could include activities related to integration of the gender perspective in CSI (particularly related to the WAE investigation in the context of domestic and gender based violence), activities in improving collection of sex and age disaggregated data by FFP or other units for instance (sex disaggregated data on: perpetrators of firearm related incidents, firearm owners, investigated persons or persons whose WAE were seized, number of WAE seized in the context of domestic violence, number of applications for firearms license approval rejected on grounds of domestic), or any gender training for professionals involved in WAE investigations, etc.

The FFP was established by Decision of the Minister of Interior on 19 August 2021 as the “Team for the Implementation, Monitoring and Exchange of Operational Information Related to Weapons”, i.e. the FFP. The FFP is operational within the Mol in a virtual format and is not set up as a separate organisational unit. In February 2024, the Mol adopted the Instruction on SOPs for the FFP operation. This Instruction sets out in detail the work of the FFP and assigns specific tasks relating to the collection, consolidation, analysis, monitoring and exchange of operational and criminal-intelligence information related to firearms, as well as handling domestic and international requests concerning firearms, essential components, ammunition and explosive devices.

- 1) In 2022, an expert reconfigured and linked the available databases and imported data enabling automatic searches, with SEESAC support. Currently, eight relevant weapons-related databases are linked to the FFP. In line with the connected databases, the FFP collects and exchanges data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives. In this regard, it prepares operational and analytical reports. These reports are submitted to the competent organisational units of the Mol that conduct investigations or pre-investigative actions within the competence of the Ministry. Reports are most frequently sent to the organisational unit responsible for combating organised crime and suppressing arms smuggling, but also to other units as needed.
- 2) In accordance with the 2024 SOPs, the FFP acts upon requests from authorities of other parties responsible for monitoring firearms, essential components, ammunition and explosive devices. The FFP is competent to respond to international requests for verification of firearms, essential components, ammunition and explosive devices, as well as persons and other entities connected to them, submitted by international actors – via liaison officers, other FFPs, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and other channels of international cooperation.
- 3) The FFP has direct access to SIENA. Direct access was enabled after a dedicated SIENA mailbox for the FFP was created, and two user accounts were opened for FFP staff who had previously been trained to use SIENA. While exchanges are formally conducted via the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in the Ministry, access to the firearms mailbox allows for more efficient handling and faster exchange of data. The FFP has not yet established a formal communication channel with any other jurisdiction in the region or any EU Member State.
- 4) The FFP collects and exchanges ballistic data in such a way that international partners can contact the FFP and provide an appropriate link compatible with the IBIS/Evofinder systems, after which the FFP forwards the case to the Criminal Forensic Centre for further action and subsequently transmits the response back to the requesting party.
- 5) The Head and a member of the FFP took part in the third meeting on the current status and progress in establishing firearms focal points and in standardising the collection of firearms-related data at EU level, held from 25 to 26 March 2025 in Brussels. The meeting was organised within the framework of the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking 2020–2025 and the defined activities for South-East Europe, which envisage the establishment and full operationalisation of FFPs in the EU and the region.
- 6) To further strengthen the capacities of the FFP, police officers of the Mol participated in the annual regional workshop of the FFPs, held in Igman, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 27 to 29 May 2025.
- 7) In February 2025, a letter was received confirming the allocation of additional assistance for equipment for the FFP, with support from SEESAC,. The needs of the FFP were presented according to priorities, namely: a server, desktop computers, laptop computers and training. The equipment is expected to be delivered in the second half of the year.

### 3.9 Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences

#### *Guiding question:*

Did authorities implement specific measures or activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating firearms-related offences? If so, please describe.

For the purpose of preventing and reducing illicit trafficking, misuse, and unlawful manufacturing and possession of weapons, ammunition and explosives, the following activities were implemented during the reporting period:

- In line with the support that UNODC provides, and in cooperation with the Judicial Academy and the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies (KPU), UNODC organised a training course entitled “**Firearms in the Courtroom**” from 23 to 24 April 2025, held at the premises of KPU in Belgrade. The objectives of the training, attended by prosecutors, judges and police officers, were to familiarise participants with the technical characteristics of firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosive substances, as well as with case law and contentious legal issues arising in such cases.

Operational results:

- Members of the Mol, as part of their regular duties, carry out checks, and in cases where weapons are found in illegal possession, they file criminal charges against the owners in accordance with Article 348 of the Criminal Code, which sanctions unauthorised possession and carrying of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials.
- In the first half of 2025, a total of 447 illegally held weapons, 7,467 rounds of ammunition, 10 bombs and explosive devices, and 1 handheld rocket launcher were seized. In the same period, 465 criminal offences under Article 348 of the Criminal Code were committed, and 457 criminal charges for this offence were filed against 481 persons.
- The Customs Administration, in the same period, seized and/or collected through customs offices and the Department for Combating Smuggling: 38 pieces of weapons and 1,716 rounds of ammunition.

Building the capacities of Police Directorates in strengthening K9 (service dog) capacities for detecting weapons and explosives:

- During the reporting period, work continued on drafting the proposal of the Master Plan for Modernisation. The OSCE informed the Mol that it had completed the procurement procedure for the preparation of the project task for upgrading the Bežanijska Kosa facility and that the contract had been awarded to the Traffic Institute CIP d.o.o. Several visits to Bežanijska Kosa were carried out and several meetings were held to prepare the project brief and conceptual design, which, once agreed, were sent to the OSCE at the beginning of June 2025 with the accompanying documentation. The OSCE informed us that work on the implementation project for the construction works is ongoing.
- In line with the equipment donation agreement, a steriliser was delivered to meet the needs of veterinary services, and at the end of February 2025 the OSCE informed us that vehicles for the Police Brigade had been procured through the supplier NIKOM AUTO d.o.o. Kragujevac, with modifications to be carried out by the company BG plast from Dolovo. Following several meetings, the vehicles were modified and delivered to the Gendarmerie/Police Brigade in May 2025.
- In March 2025, the OSCE also submitted a draft SOPs for the training and operational use of service dogs, as well as a draft SOP for puppies, developed within the project. The members of the Working Group submitted comments on the draft SOP.
- **Two site visits/meetings were also held at the Bežanijska Kosa location by representatives of the French Embassy and the EU Delegation in late May and early June 2025, aimed at providing an overview of the activities implemented so far and those planned under the project to strengthen capacities for detecting illicit SALW.**
- During the reporting period, the fifth meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 5 June 2025.
- With regard to SAMBI technique training under this project, which was completed by two members of the Gendarmerie/Police Brigade in the period from 28 October to 6 December 2024 in Gramat, France, the OSCE confirmed that instructors from Gramat would conduct a certification visit and assessment between 23 and 27 June 2025. The visit took place from 24 to 26 June 2025, and two handler–service dog teams were certified in the above-mentioned technique.

### 3.10 Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken in improving inter-institutional cooperation at operational level? If so, please provide details.

- Improvements in inter-institutional cooperation at the operational level in this area are being implemented on an ongoing basis. During the reporting period, cooperation with the Customs Administration was enhanced with regard to participation and activities in EMPACT international operational actions. As part of preparatory activities for OA Armstrong, the Mol established contacts with the Public Enterprise Post of Serbia in order to ensure more efficient action and impact, so that postal services, within their scope of competence, would also be included going forward, particularly in view of the UNODC HERMES project.
- During this period, the Customs Administration carried out several activities related to the HERMES Project, in which it is a lead actor together with the Public Enterprise Post of Serbia, aimed at strengthening capacities for detecting firearms, their components, ammunition, explosives and other dangerous goods in postal traffic. The project is currently in its second phase, which will last until October 2025 and includes the donation of specialised equipment for detecting weapons (X-ray devices) for Serbia, training in reading X-ray images and detecting weapons in parcels, and a workshop on indicators and risk analysis in postal traffic.
- In this context, on 21 May 2025, Mol and Customs Administration representatives participated in an online pre-operational meeting for the international operations “CONVERSUS” and “ARMSTRONG” related to OA 2.1 – OAP 2024–2025 EMPACT Firearms.

### 3.11 Participation in Joint Action Days

*Guiding question:*

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in your jurisdiction? Did you participate in a JAD operation during the reporting period? If so, please elaborate on your role and results.

Within the Mol, a JAD Coordinator has been appointed, who also serves as the contact point for OA 8.1 – JAD, EMPACT FA (now FIX). In preparation for the upcoming JAD, which will be held in the next reporting period, the following was carried out:

- On 12 March 2025, at **Europol Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands**, the meeting “**EMPACT Firearms – Strategic meeting OAP 2024–2025**” was held, attended by drivers, co-drivers, action leaders and co-leaders, all participants, international organisations and agencies, and other stakeholders, focusing on analysing last year’s activities and planning those for this year for the implementation of OAP 2024–2025.
- On 13 March 2025, a meeting was held at the premises of the Netherlands National Police, Nieuwe Uitleg 1, The Hague, the Netherlands, as part of the post-operational phase of SEE JAD 2024, to present the results achieved during the operational phase and to plan further steps to improve the results achieved in last year’s operational phase.
- From 7 to 9 April 2025, a Regional Meeting of Criminal Police Representatives of South-East Europe was held in Tirana, Albania, organised by SEESAC.
- From 8 to 9 April 2025, a kick-off meeting was held at the Pananinfo premises of the Complutense University of Madrid, in Madrid, Spain, within the new Internal Security Fund (ISF) project “**FORTIFY: Firearms Trafficking Cooperation Initiative: Strengthening Efforts**” – Supporting EMPACT Firearms, aimed at strengthening the operational development and effectiveness of EMPACT Firearms in combating illicit firearms trafficking.
- From 21 to 22 May 2025, a meeting was held at the “**Madrid Alameda Aeropuerto**” hotel in Madrid, Kingdom of Spain, on OA 2.1 – CONVERSUS and OA 3.2 – ARMSTRONG, organised by EMPACT Firearms within the new ISF FORTIFY project.
- As part of strengthening the capacities of the criminal police, from 9 to 12 June 2025 a course on Counterproliferation Finance Investigation was held at the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) in Zagreb, Croatia, organised by the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade.

- On 26 June 2025, an online meeting was held to prepare SEE JAD 2025, focusing on the implementation of the intelligence phase and planning the operational phase of the action.

### 3.12 Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL

*Guiding question:*

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and/or Europol?

- Apart from support for MoI participation in meetings organised by Europol/EMPACT, no additional tools or grants (of low or high value) were used.
- Serbia is actively participating in nine operational actions within EMPACT Firearms, the most significant of which is the SEE JAD operational action (OA 8.1). During the reporting period, the previous year's results were evaluated and the intelligence phase of this operational action was implemented.
- During the next JAD operation, it is planned to use the G. Keeper programme, which will be provided by Europol, subject to prior approval.

### 3.13 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

Enhancing international cooperation and data exchange within the FFP and in the area of ballistics have been identified as a challenge.

## PODGORICA

### 3.1 Strengthening Risk Analysis Systems and Preventing the Diversion of Arms Exports

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period? Did you publish an annual report on arms exports?

- There were no cases of diversion of arms exports during the reporting period.
- In line with its obligations, the Ministry of Economic Development prepared the following reports:
  - The Annual Report on Exports and Imports of Conventional Arms, in accordance with Article 13(3) of the Arms Trade Treaty – Information Exchange on Conventional Arms Transfers (FSC.DEC/13/97).
  - The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons – Information Exchange.
- The Ministry of Economic Development also contributed data to the 2022 Regional Report on Arms Exports, which was published by SEESAC in January 2025.
- The Customs Administration, through the Customs Information System, is able to generate reports on exports and imports based on tariff codes for all goods, including weapons. These reports are provided to local authorities or international partners upon request.

### 3.2 Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE

*Guiding questions:*

Were any activities undertaken during the reporting period to strengthen border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE? If yes, please describe the activities, type of border (land, air, maritime), and any cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions or international

partners.

- The Customs Administration initiated the development of SALW-related SOPs during the reporting period. On 13–14 May 2025, custom officers participated in a workshop in Podgorica for the development of the SOPs to prevent and address illicit firearms trafficking. The workshop, organised by SEESAC, was tailored to the recommendations of the 2024 Needs Assessment of the Custom Administration to counter illicit firearms flows.
- Seven Customs Administration officers, one Mol officer, and three representatives of the Montenegrin Post attended the training “X-ray Image Analysis and Firearms Detection”, held on 23–24 June 2025 in Podgorica, organized by UNODC under the HERMES project.
- Under the HERMES project, a donation agreement was signed in March 2025 between the Customs Administration and UNODC for the delivery and installation of an X-ray scanner to be used for the inspection of postal shipments. UNODC has issued a production and delivery order to the manufacturer. Delivery and installation are expected in the fourth quarter of 2025.
- From 13 to 14 May 2025, SEESAC organised a workshop in Podgorica to support the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to SALW, with the active participation of local customs officers. The workshop was tailored on the basis of recommendations from the 2024 needs assessment.
- In March, a meeting on “Intelligence Picture on Smuggling and Cross-Border Crime” was organised in Warsaw by FRONTEX, with the participation of two Criminal Police officers and one Border Police officer.
- On 3 April 2025, a meeting of the European Firearms Experts Network was held, with Montenegro participating for the first time. Montenegro was the only Western Balkan jurisdiction represented. The meeting discussed trends in arms trafficking, with a particular focus on convertible firearms and 3D-printed weapons.

### 3.3 Control mechanisms for explosive precursors

#### *Guiding question:*

Is there a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors? If not, has work been initiated in establishing such mechanism? If so, please provide details on the establishment process.

The Working Group continued its work on drafting the Law on Precursors of Explosive Materials. The draft text of the Law was prepared and submitted to the competent ministries for their opinions. Following the receipt of these opinions, the Working Group will continue its work on the Law. No meetings were held in the first half of the year.

### 3.4 Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your Crime Scene Investigation unit been accredited? If not, are there any steps/activities undertaken in this regard?

- The Criminalistics Technical Units at the RCB level are not accredited due to insufficient spatial and material capacities, as well as a lack of human resources. Currently, four positions are systematised within the Sector for the Fight against Crime, with responsibilities related to monitoring and improving the work of criminalistics forensics and providing assistance in the most serious criminal cases. Certain instructions on procedures for crime scene processing have been developed in accordance with elements of the ISO 17020 standard.
- Some equipment has been procured for the needs of the criminalistics forensics units, and the procurement of specialised vehicles for crime-scene investigations is ongoing. It is necessary to strengthen the criminalistics forensics units in terms of facilities, staffing and technical equipment in order to create the conditions needed for future CSI accreditation.
- Additional supporting equipment has been procured for the needs of the criminalistics forensics

units. In the next period, it will be essential to continue strengthening capacities and technical capabilities.

### 3.5 Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your ballistic laboratory been accredited? If yes, please indicate which methods are accredited. If not, please describe the steps/activities undertaken in this regard.

- The Ballistics Laboratory is accredited for one validated method, specifically the examination of firearm-related marks on cartridge cases.
- During the reporting period, the Ballistics Laboratory received from UNDP a multifunctional device for the safe discharging of firearms, and the supplier delivered the corresponding training, thereby enhancing the skills of two experts in the use of this equipment.
- Through the same project, the Arson and Explosives Laboratory received specialised equipment, including an optical fibre tester, an optical extension cable, and a fixing strip.
- Furthermore, a team from the Forensic Centre, including the Head of the Forensic Centre of Montenegro and experts in gunshot residue analysis, fire/explosion investigations, chemistry and ballistics, participated in a study visit to the Forensic Laboratory in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The visit included a detailed tour of key departments, including the departments for physical examinations, chemical examinations, biological examinations, ballistics, and the department for quality and laboratory development, with a focus on work related to traces from fires, explosions, pyrotechnics, etc. The visit was highly beneficial, enhancing professional exchange and paving the way for future cooperation with Slovenian forensic experts.

### 3.6 Increased capacities for online firearmrelated crime investigations

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities aiming to increase capacities of cybercrime units related to firearms online investigations during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.

- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the regional workshop organized by SEESAC on 25–26 February 2025 in Skopje, which focused on the recovery of electronic evidence for law enforcement representatives and investigators from Western Balkan jurisdictions. The workshop **enhanced Montenegro’s capacities in digital forensics and effective handling of electronic evidence.**

### 3.7 Integration of a gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken to integrate gender perspective into regular procedures and daily operations related to WAE investigations? If yes, please provide details.<sup>11</sup>

- Two “Gender Coach” sessions were held in Belgrade on 28–29 May for the Head of the SALW Commission of Montenegro, highlighting the importance of integrating a gender perspective into regular procedures and day-to-day activities related to preventing the misuse of SALW.
- On 8 and 10 April 2025, the MoI trainers facilitated two training sessions for police officers on the Guidelines for Assessing and Addressing Risks Related to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence and Guidelines for Gender Responsive Firearms License Approval, developed and published by

---

<sup>11</sup> This could include activities related to integration of the gender perspective in CSI (particularly related to the FAE investigation in the context of domestic and gender based violence), activities in improving collection of sex and age disaggregated data by FFP or other units for instance (sex disaggregated data on: perpetrators of firearm related incidents, firearm owners, investigated persons or persons whose WAE were seized, number of WAE seized in the context of domestic violence, number of applications for firearms license approval rejected on grounds of domestic), or any gender training for professionals involved in WAE investigations, etc.

SEESAC. The first session equipped police officers working with cases of domestic violence to identify and mitigate firearm-related risks in domestic violence cases. The second session equipped Mol officials and police officers responsible for license approval with the knowledge and skills to apply a gender-responsive approach during background checks. SEESAC supported the trainers from the Mol/Police Directorate in preparing and delivering both sessions.

### 3.8 Establishment and operationalization of Firearms Focal Points

#### *Guiding questions:*

- Is a Firearms Focal Point fully operational? More specifically:
- 1) Is the FFP collecting and sharing data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives?
  - 2) Is the FFP responsible for tracing and sending or answering to tracing requests?
  - 3) Has FFP direct access to SIENA?
  - 4) Is the FFP collecting and sharing ballistic data?
  - 5) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with any other jurisdiction? If so, which ones?
  - 6) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with the EU Member States? If so, which ones?
  - 7) Does FFP develop reports or knowledge products? If yes, please specify which products were produced in the reporting period, and to whom were these delivered.
- The FFP was established in the first quarter of 2020 and is composed of officers from four organisational units of the Police Directorate which, based on their respective mandates, carry out tasks related to the FFP. The FFP is fully operational.
    - 1) Yes. The FFP collects data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Regarding information exchange, the FFP also exchanges data with international partners, as described under Goal 2, With regard to the exchange of information on ammunition and explosives, the Criminal Intelligence Department did not exchange such data.
    - 2) Yes. The FFP is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and sending and responding to trace requests.
    - 3) Yes. Three out of the four organisational units that make up the FFP have direct access to the SIENA communication channel.
    - 4) It should be noted that the Ballistics Examination Unit is part of the FFP, and therefore the FFP collects ballistic data. Regarding data availability, firearm examination data are **available to all FFP constituents through the “Traffic” database, while access to the ballistic database “Evofinder” is limited to officers of the Ballistics Examination Unit.**
    - 5) The FFP has established a dedicated email address, [ffp@policija.me](mailto:ffp@policija.me), which can also be used for formal communication with international partners. FFP officers have promoted this email address at all international meetings. Communication via the SIENA channel is also formal in nature. In this context, the FFP communicated with the Albanian FFP to exchange information. Communication was also carried out via SIENA with other Western Balkan economies.
    - 6) Same as the response provided under Question 5.
    - 7) Yes. Based on the systematically collected data on firearms-related events, seized weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnance (EO), as well as data on perpetrators and victims, the FFP consolidates these into a single database of firearms-related events/incidents. On this basis, the FFP produces a Monthly Firearms Bulletin, which contains information on: registered firearms-related events, the number of seized firearms (both legal and illicit), the structure of seized firearms based on legal grounds for seizure, the number of firearms seizures by municipality, as well as identified trends in firearms seizures. Importantly, this bulletin is part of the Monthly Report of the Criminal Intelligence Department, and is available to all police officers through the **“Infostream V2” application**. In the upcoming period, annual and quarterly reports/bulletins will also be produced. FFP officers also continuously produce intelligence reports, both upon request and proactively, concerning individuals linked to firearms-trafficking activities, which are submitted to the

competent organisational units of the Police Directorate.

- During the reporting period, the FFP also participated in the following activities:
  - On 25-26 March 2025, FFP representatives participated in the Annual Regional Meeting of the FFP in Brussels.
  - On 27-29 May 2025, three representatives of Montenegro participated in the Annual Regional FFP workshop in Igman, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organised by SEESAC. The workshop gathered representatives of the FFPs from the Western Balkans, providing a platform for FFP members to share operational updates, exchange experiences on emerging threats and trends, and participate in specialised training on intelligence collection.

### 3.9 Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences

#### *Guiding question:*

Did authorities implement specific measures or activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating firearms-related offences? If so, please describe.

- With the aim of strengthening sentencing policy and reviewing existing judicial practice, the Supreme Court of Montenegro conducted an analysis of 431 final judgments issued over a five-year period. Based on the collected data, an analysis of sentencing policy in firearms-related cases was prepared, with the objective of ensuring greater consistency in judicial practice. The analysis was published on the website of the Supreme Court.
- The Criminal Police of Montenegro received the specialised equipment (X-ray scanners, ground metal detectors, crime-scene kits, forensic lights, laboratory instruments and computers) in 2024, while the official handover ceremony took place during the reporting period.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the Regional Criminal Police Meeting in Tirana, Albania, organised by SEESAC on 8–9 April 2025, which focused on emerging threats related to illicit firearms trafficking, particularly blank-firing weapons and their conversion.
- In February 2025, UNODC organised a workshop in Podgorica where the Judicial Training Manual on Firearms was presented, covering topics related to the identification of firearms, judicial practice and forensic examination. The publication Use of Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) in Firearms and Organised Crime Cases, with a particular focus on the admissibility of evidence and encrypted communications, was also presented. The workshop gathered representatives of the judiciary, prosecution, police and the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro, who exchanged experiences related to firearms-related cases, as well as the challenges institutions face in the implementation of activities.

### 3.10 Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken in improving inter-institutional cooperation at operational level? If so, please provide details.

- No relevant activities reported.

### 3.11 Participation in Joint Action Days

#### *Guiding question:*

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in your jurisdiction? Did you participate in a JAD operation during the reporting period? If so, please elaborate on your role and results.

- Montenegro actively participates in the EMPACT Firearms (FIA) OAP 10 activities, taking part in eight

operational activities, and acting as Co-Leader in OA 8.1 SEE JAD. Activities are implemented quarterly through regular participation in preparatory meetings aimed at organising the Joint Action Days planned for the second half of 2025.

- During Q2 2025, preparatory activities were carried out jointly by the Police Directorate and the Customs Administration of Montenegro, in advance of the EMPACT Action Days and the subsequent Joint EMPACT Action Days under Operational Activity 3.2 Armstrong. This activity focuses on strengthening the control of postal shipments to detect firearms.
- A representative of the Customs Administration was appointed as the local contact point.
- One representative of the Police Directorate and one representative of the Customs Administration participated in the preparatory coordination meeting held in Madrid in May 2025.

### 3.12 Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL

*Guiding question:*

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and/or Europol?

No supporting tools for investigations were used during the reporting period.

### 3.13 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- To further develop and strengthen the Firearms Focal Point and to create conditions for fast and efficient data exchange (regarding seized firearms, ammunition and explosive ordnance) between the Firearms Focal Point and other organisational units of the Police Directorate — both via Infostream V2 and other systemic databases, we identified needs for the additional equipment.
- We have requested support from SEESAC and the procurement of the following equipment is planned:
  - 30 Desktop PCs,
  - 30 Monitors,
  - Laptops.
- Additionally, part of the equipment for the criminalistics forensics units has been procured, and the procurement of specialised vehicles for criminalistics forensics is ongoing. It remains necessary to further strengthen the technical capacities of the criminalistics forensics units, particularly the regional centres. It should be emphasised that the condition of the facilities used for criminalistics forensics is inadequate, as most premises are not at a satisfactory level.

## PRISTINA

### 3.1 Strengthening Risk Analysis Systems and Preventing the Diversion of Arms Exports

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period? Did you publish an annual report on arms exports?

- There were no cases of arms export diversion, as Kosovo does not conduct exports of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
- No annual report on arms exports was published for the same reason.

### 3.2 Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were any activities undertaken during the reporting period to strengthen border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE? If yes, please describe the activities, type of border (land, air, maritime), and any cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions or international partners.

- The Border Police implemented 31 operational plans (OPs) related to border control activities, while the Center for Border Management (CBM) and the Joint Unit for Intelligence Sharing, Risk Analysis, and Threats reported 7 joint OPs between the Police and Customs, coordinated by the Customs Administration. Based on recommendations issued by the CBM and others regarding second-line controls, the border authorities prepared 131 profiles. Through these controls, 31 cases involving narcotics and 36 cases involving firearms were prevented, including the detection of various types of weapons, ammunition, and weapon parts. Regarding second-line controls, a total of 14,758 vehicle inspections were conducted across all border crossing points, including checks on buses, trucks, cars, and pedestrians.
- 13 officials from the Customs Administration were trained by UNODC in January and February 2025 to identify and analyze X-ray images for detecting concealed firearms and related components.
- UNDOC also organized four on-the-job mentoring sessions in Pristina to consolidate learning outcomes and ensure alignment between theoretical knowledge and operational practice.

### 3.3 Control mechanisms for explosive precursors

#### *Guiding question:*

Is there a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors? If not, has work been initiated in establishing such mechanism? If so, please provide details on the establishment process.

There is no dedicated control mechanism in place. Every suspected case is verified – whether legal or illegal – both at the borders and inland.

### 3.4 Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your Crime Scene Investigation unit been accredited? If not, are there any steps/activities undertaken in this regard?

- A Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) unit is in place and operates depending on the nature of the case. If the case involves a firearm (where use is suspected and there are no victims), designated police officers attend the scene. In cases involving victims, police officers are accompanied by officials from the Forensic Agency (ballistics) and the Institute of Forensic Medicine. CSI units operate at the local, regional, and central levels.
- Other activities to strengthen its effective operation include:
  - Participation in the Annual Criminal Police Meeting organised by SEESAC on 8-9 April 2025 in Tirana.
  - Participation in the Regional Workshop on Recovery of Electronic Evidence in Skopje on digital forensics and effective handling of electronic evidence.
  - Participation of 12 police officers in a training session on identifying homemade explosives.

### 3.5 Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your ballistic laboratory been accredited? If yes, please indicate which methods are

accredited. If not, please describe the steps/activities undertaken in this regard.

- The Ballistics Expertise Division is accredited under ISO Standard 17025:2017. Four methods are accredited, as follows:
  - Method PRT-2.1: Physical examination, classification, and identification of firearms and their components;
  - Method PRT-2.2: Physical examination and classification of projectiles;
  - Method PRT-2.3: Physical examination and classification of cartridge cases and ammunition;
  - Method PRT-2.4: Physical examination and classification of hunting cartridges and their components.

### 3.6 Increased capacities for online firearm-related crime investigations

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities aiming to increase capacities of cybercrime units related to firearms online investigations during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.

With the aim of strengthening professional and logistical capacities related to the online investigation of crimes involving firearms, relevant officials participated in the regional workshop on Digital Forensics and Effective Management of Electronic Evidence, organized by SEESAC in February 2025.

### 3.7 Integration of a gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken to integrate gender perspective into regular procedures and daily operations related to WAE investigations? If yes, please provide details.<sup>12</sup>

- On 20 and 22 May 2025, the MoI trainers facilitated two training sessions for police officers on the Guidelines for Assessing and Addressing Risks Related to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence and Guidelines for Gender Responsive Firearms License Approval, developed and published by SEESAC. These sessions equipped police officers working with cases of domestic violence to identify and mitigate firearm-related risks in domestic violence cases. Those responsible for license approval were equipped with the knowledge and skills to apply a gender-responsive approach during background checks. SEESAC supported the trainers from the MoI in preparing and delivering both sessions.
- Representatives of the MoI participated in a three-day meeting in Brussels to discuss amendments to the EU Firearms Directive 258/2012. The discussions covered issues such as definitions, import and export criteria, digital licensing, and firearm marking. The working groups also addressed the integration of a gender perspective in the adoption of firearm-related legislation, as well as in investigation and data collection.

### 3.8 Establishment and Operationalization of Firearms Focal Points

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is a Firearms Focal Point fully operational? More specifically:

- 1) Is the FFP collecting and sharing data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives?
- 2) Is the FFP responsible for tracing and sending or answering to tracing requests?
- 3) Has FFP direct access to SIENA?

---

<sup>12</sup> This could include activities related to integration of the gender perspective in CSI (particularly related to the FAE investigation in the context of domestic and gender based violence), activities in improving collection of sex and age disaggregated data by FFP or other units for instance (sex disaggregated data on: perpetrators of firearm related incidents, firearm owners, investigated persons or persons whose WAE were seized, number of WAE seized in the context of domestic violence, number of applications for firearms license approval rejected on grounds of domestic), or any gender training for professionals involved in WAE investigations, etc.

- 4) Is the FFP collecting and sharing ballistic data?
  - 5) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with any other jurisdiction? If so, which ones?
  - 6) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with the EU Member States? If so, which ones?
  - 7) Does FFP develop reports or knowledge products? If yes, please specify which products were produced in the reporting period, and to whom were these delivered.
- The FFP was established in 2016 and operates within the police.
    - 1) Yes. Data collection on firearms, ammunition, and explosives has been carried out through police reports, which are then distributed to the relevant units. In addition to data collection, firearm tracing is conducted through both local and international systems, such as iARMS and SIENA.
    - 2) Yes. The FFP is responsible for tracing firearms both locally and internationally. At the international level, requests are sent via the Liaison Office of INTERPOL Pristina through the iARMS system, and to EUROPOL through the SIENA system – to which we have direct access.
    - 3) Yes. There is direct access to the SIENA system. Communication and information exchange are conducted regularly through the secure SIENA channel.
    - 4) The FFP receives and shares information from the ballistic unit. However, ballistic data (i.e., ballistic characteristics) is not shared.
    - 5) The FFP maintains an official communication channel with other institutions through the address of the Directorate for International Police Cooperation (ILECU), where it is also located. Cooperation and communication with other jurisdictions and EU member states includes:
      - Cooperation with Albania on police information exchange.
      - Cooperation with Croatia in a case involving firearms trafficking where two individuals were arrested at the Croatian border and 11 automatic rifles were seized;
      - Cooperation with Montenegro through the exchange of police information;
      - Cooperation with EU member states such as Germany, Sweden, France, and Belgium through INTERPOL and EUROPOL channels, primarily for the verification of suspects and seized firearms.
    - 6) The FFP conducts communication with other parties through the address of the Directorate for International Police Cooperation (ILECU), where the FFP is located, for both incoming and outgoing requests.
    - 7) The FFP has produced an analytical report containing statistical and other data on firearms, including detailed information. The report has been submitted to the command staff and distributed to departments and directorates within the Police.
  - During the reporting period, the FFP also participated in the following activities:
    - On 25-26 March 2025, FFP representatives participated in the Annual Regional Meeting of the FFP in Brussels.
    - On 27-29 May 2025, representatives from Kosovo participated in the Annual Regional FFP workshop in Igman, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organised by SEESAC. The workshop gathered representatives of the FFPs from the Western Balkans, contributing to strengthening capacities and knowledge related to combating firearms trafficking at both jurisdictional and international levels.

### 3.9 Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences

#### *Guiding question:*

Did authorities implement specific measures or activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating firearms-related offences? If so, please describe.

- The development process of the online learning platform for the Kosovo Police Training

Department has been finalised. The UNDP/KSSP Security Programme supported the training of two IT staff members (one male and one female) responsible for platform maintenance, as well as seven members (four men and three women) of the Training Division who will develop new training content.

- Criminal justice officials from Kosovo participated in the UNODC sub-regional workshop organized in Tirana on 6 May 2025 to advance the effective application of Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) in firearms trafficking cases. Apart from criminal justice officials from Kosovo, the event gathered criminal justice officials from Tirana and Skopje, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and academic experts.
- Activities were also conducted to strengthen the capacities of the K9 unit, including:
  - Implementation of infrastructure improvements (additional works in existing K9 facilities).
  - Delivery of specialized (modified) vehicles for the K9 Unit.

### 3.10 Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken in improving inter-institutional cooperation at operational level? If so, please provide details.

No relevant activities have been conducted during the reporting period.

### 3.11 Participation in Joint Action Days

#### *Guiding question:*

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in your jurisdiction? Did you participate in a JAD operation during the reporting period? If so, please elaborate on your role and results.

A coordinator for JAD 2025 has been appointed. Representatives participated in the JAD SEE 2024 Debriefing Meeting held in March in The Hague, organised by Europol. For JAD 2025, participation has been confirmed, and preparations have begun for the upcoming activities.

### 3.12 Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL

#### *Guiding question:*

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and/or Europol?

So far, support has been provided for the organisation of joint meetings and for joint investigations. In one case, the Border Investigations Department conducted a joint investigation together with investigators from other jurisdictions.

### 3.13 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

#### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

The following needs have been identified during the reporting period:

- Advanced training for investigators and equipment dedicated to the detection and recovery of weapons during operations;
- Training for prosecutors and judges who handle cases involving WAE;
- Upgrades to databases that would directly improve the collection of information related to the misuse, manufacture, possession and illicit circulation of weapons, ammunition and explosives, across essential parameters such as gender, age, location, etc.

## SARAJEVO

### 3.1 Strengthening Risk Analysis Systems and Preventing the Diversion of Arms Exports

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period? Did you publish an annual report on arms exports?

Federal level (MOFTER, ITA, Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board)

- MOFTER: No cases of diversion of arms export were reported during the reporting period. Data on issued and executed export licences for weapons and military equipment for 2023 were submitted to SEESAC for the purpose of preparing the Regional Report on Arms Exports for the Western Balkans.
- ITA: No cases of diversion of arms export were reported during the reporting period. In accordance with the Law on the Control of Foreign Trade in Weapons, Military Equipment and Special Purpose Goods, the ITA submits semi-annual reports to MOFTER on the foreign trade of these goods.

### 3.2 Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were any activities undertaken during the reporting period to strengthen border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE? If yes, please describe the activities, type of border (land, air, maritime), and any cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions or international partners.

Federal level (ITA, Border Police BiH)

- ITA: During the reporting period, ITA officials from the Law Enforcement Sector recorded two cases of seizures of temporary goods: one case involving pyrotechnic devices (34 firecrackers) inland, and one case at a border crossing, during which 1 signal pistol (EKOL Special 99), 7 signal pistol cartridges, and 1 pistol magazine were seized.
- ITA officials, in line with their competences and authorisations, conduct regular supervision and control of goods traffic at border crossings and customs offices, placing particular emphasis on goods subject to prohibitions and restrictions — including those requiring permits, such as small arms and light weapons. **Within the framework of the regional project “Hermes,”** launched by UNODC in March 2023 and focused on combating the trafficking of firearms, their parts, and ammunition in express courier and postal shipments, a meeting of the Joint Working Group of the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA BiH) and public postal operators of BiH was held on 22 January 2025. The meeting was attended by officers from the Customs Sector and the Enforcement Sector of ITA BiH and discussed the recapitulation of the Hermes 1 project.
- **During the meeting, the activities of HERMES 2 were presented, along with ITA BiH’s plan to implement an operational action aimed at preventing and combating illicit trade in firearms, their parts, ammunition, explosives, explosive precursors, and other goods trafficked illegally in postal and courier transport.**
- Accordingly, ITA adopted an Operational Plan for the implementation of the operation codenamed KURIR (COURIER). The objective of Operation KURIR is the selection, profiling, and identification of postal, parcel, and courier shipments in international postal and courier traffic imported into or exported from the BiH customs via Sarajevo, Mostar, and Banja Luka postal customs offices, the Sarajevo Airport Customs Office, as well as other internal and border customs posts handling courier shipments from private operators. Among other tasks, the operation focuses on the inspection of postal and private courier shipments to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in firearms, their spare parts, ammunition, explosives, and explosive precursors. The operation is

being implemented throughout 2025 in several phases, with the first three phases carried out between 28–30 January, 2–4 April, and 5–7 June 2025.

- To support the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between ITA BiH and public postal operators and to ensure the functionality of the Joint Working Group, UNODC organised a meeting on 12 May 2025 attended by operational ITA BiH officers, during which the results of the operational plan and other essential details for the action’s continuation were presented.
- In February 2025, under the Hermes project, UNODC procured two ThermoFisher TruDefender FTX S2 handheld detectors for explosives and narcotics for use at the customs postal offices in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. As part of the same project, training sessions for Customs Sector officers on x-ray image analysis were conducted in Sarajevo (10–11 April 2025), Banja Luka (23–24 April 2025), and Mostar (7–8 May 2025).
- In addition, under the project “Enhancing the Capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (LEAD)”, a Project Board meeting was held in Sarajevo on 28 January 2025, attended by an officer from the ITA BiH Enforcement Sector.
- Border Police BiH: In the reporting period January–June 2025, police officers discovered and temporarily seized one automatic rifle, 77 rounds of ammunition, and two bladed weapons. A report on the criminal offence “Unauthorised Possession of Weapons or Explosive Materials” was submitted to the competent prosecutor’s office. Additionally, due to misdemeanour offences, 11 hunting cartridges and one gas pistol were temporarily seized.

### 3.3 Control mechanisms for explosive precursors

#### *Guiding question:*

Is there a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors? If not, has work been initiated in establishing such mechanism? If so, please provide details on the establishment process.

Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board: Mechanisms for the control of explosive precursors have not been established. Under Goal 1.1.2. of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy, it is stated: “Analyse the legislative framework on the control of explosives and explosive precursors in relation to the EU regulatory framework.” An analysis is planned to determine which institutions should be designated as lead actors for these activities.

### 3.4 Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your Crime Scene Investigation unit been accredited? If not, are there any steps/activities undertaken in this regard?

Federal level (Border police BiH, SIPA, Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH)

- Border Police BiH: No. The Border Police carries out its activities in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Laws in force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other relevant laws regulating this area. No steps have been taken in this regard.
- The Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH does not have a unit responsible for conducting crime scene investigations.

Brcko District Police

- The CSI unit has not yet been accredited. Crime scene investigators hold certificates of completed training.

Tuzla Canton Mol

- The CSI units are professional, equipped, and trained, and are authorised to conduct crime scene investigations. However, they do not hold a specific accreditation, and no activities were conducted during the reporting period in this regard.

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- The CSI unit is not accredited and is conducted in such a way that authorised police officers carry out the investigative actions, while forensic technicians are responsible for the collection,

packaging, and archiving of evidence. No activities have been undertaken in this regard.

Canton 10 Mol

- The CSI unit is not accredited. During the reporting period, three police officers participated in a meeting on cooperation between prosecutors' offices and the police regarding investigation and prosecution procedures for criminal offences related to SALW. The meeting was organised by UNDP BiH within the framework of the LEAD project.
- The objective – based on discussions with prosecutors and police officers – is to develop a handbook for police officers outlining procedures for conducting investigative actions in SALW-related cases, derived from the meeting's joint conclusions and proposed solutions.

Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol and West-Herzegovina Canton Mol reported the CSI unit to be accredited but provided no detail.

Una-Sana Canton Mol and Canton Sarajevo Mol reported no accreditation of the CSI unit.

SIPA, Federal Mol, Republika Srpska Mol, Posavina Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol provided no information.

### 3.5 Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories

*Guiding question:*

Have your ballistic laboratories been accredited? If yes, please indicate which methods are accredited. If not, please describe the steps/activities undertaken in this regard.

Republika Srpska Mol:

- No, the methods used for ballistic examinations are not accredited.
- Ballistic examinations are carried out within the RS Mol at the Laboratory for Ballistics, Mechanoscopy and Traffic-Technical Examinations, Department for Criminal-Technical Examinations and Testing, Forensics Unit – Criminal-Technical Centre, Directorate for Police Support. The laboratory's ballistic examinations are performed by four qualified experts (two male, two female).
- The laboratory conducts the following types of firearms and ammunition examinations:
  - Identification of the type, make/manufacturer, model, calibre and serial number of a firearm.
  - Assessment of the functional condition of a firearm.
  - Comparative analysis of cartridge cases, bullets and bullet fragments found at a scene with cartridge cases and bullets fired from a submitted firearm.
  - Determination of the type, make/manufacturer and model of a firearm based on general characteristics of marks found on cartridge cases and bullets.
  - Checking firearms, cartridge cases and bullets recovered at crime scenes against the collection of unresolved evidential cartridge cases and bullets from serious crimes in Republika Srpska using automated ballistic identification systems ARSENAL and EVOFINDER.
  - Determination of the attack/standing point of the perpetrator based on the location of cartridge cases fired from the firearm in question.
  - Determination of the direction and trajectory of projectiles based on material traces at the scene.
  - Detection of gunpowder particle residues on weapons, objects and persons.
  - Determination of the range of fire (distance between shooter and target).
- Additional expert services provided by the laboratory include:
  - Preparation of expert opinions on firearms and ammunition.
  - Reconstruction of events – establishing the dynamics of incidents at scenes involving firearm use.
  - Determination of the sequence of projectile passages, for example bullets fired.
- The methods of ballistic examination used in the Laboratory for Mechanoscopy are not yet accredited under the ISO/IEC 17025:2018 standard, but active efforts are underway to obtain accreditation for two comparative methods concerning cartridge cases and bullets. The pace of developing documentation in line with this ISO standard largely depends on the workload of expert examiners, who are engaged in conducting examinations ordered by prosecutors' offices and

courts, as well as responding to the requests of the organisational units of the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska.

- As for ballistic capacities, the Laboratory for Ballistics, Mechanoscopy and Traffic-Technical Expertise is equipped with a modern comparative microscope “Projectina Vision X”, acquired at the beginning of 2024, and automated ballistic identification systems EVOFINDER and ARSENAL, thereby meeting all prerequisites for the accreditation process.

Federal MoI

- Yes. Comparative examination of bullets/projectiles; comparative examination of cartridge cases/ammunition casings.

Tuzla Canton MoI

- The ballistic laboratory is not accredited. Activities have been initiated to develop a project for the renovation of the laboratory premises and the shooting range.

Brcko District Police and Sarajevo Canton MoI reported their ballistic laboratory as not accredited, and no activities toward its accreditation.

### 3.6 Increased capacities for online firearm-related crime investigations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities aiming to increase capacities of cybercrime units related to firearms online investigations during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.

Federal level (SIPA, Border police BiH)

- SIPA: Activities include trainings on the following topics:
  - Acquiring knowledge of contemporary techniques and tools for investigating complex cases of economic and cybercrime, and
  - Collecting criminal intelligence data from open sources and cyberspace.
- Border Police BiH: The Border Police does not possess the necessary capacities, nor does its mandate include conducting investigations related to cybercrime.

Una-Sana Canton MoI

- During the reporting period, the Police Directorate established a new organizational unit – the Department for the Prevention of Cybercrime.
- This Department is responsible, among other duties, for preventing, detecting, and documenting all criminal offenses involving the use of computer, information, or communication technologies, whether such technologies are used as a means, method, or target of committing a crime.

Central Bosnia Canton MoI

- The Ministry of Interior of the Central Bosnia Canton does not have a dedicated cybercrime unit. However, within the Criminal Police Department, there are officers assigned to handle cybercrime-related cases. These officers are not specialized nor adequately equipped in terms of material or technical resources to conduct investigations related to firearms.

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI

- The Cybercrime Unit is one of the newly established units within the Criminal Police Sector. Continuous efforts are being made to strengthen its institutional capacity and to ensure adequate professional training and development of its personnel across all areas and levels of responsibility within its mandate.

West-Herzegovina Canton MoI

- A training session for police officers was held on the topic “Cybercrime and Terrorism,” with a specific focus on the collection of digital evidence.

Federal MoI, Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, Sarajevo Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI reported no activities.

Republika Srpska MoI, Posavina Canton MoI, and Bosnian-Podrinje MoI provided no information.

### 3.7 Integration of a gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken to integrate gender perspective into regular procedures and daily operations related to WAE investigations? If yes, please provide details.<sup>13</sup>

Federal level (Ministry of Security, SIPA, Border Police BiH)

- Border Police BiH: The Border Police has established and maintains sustainable cooperation with the Association “Network of Policewomen” in promoting and raising awareness on the importance of gender equality in the security sector. During the reporting period, representatives of the Border Police of BiH participated in workshops organized by the Association on the topic “Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).” The aim of the workshops was to enhance the knowledge of police officers on issues related to the misuse and control of SALW and the current situation in BiH in this area, with a focus on gender-based violence and familiarization with the activities of the Coordinating Committee for SALW Control and actions undertaken in line with the BiH Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Central Bosnia Canton Mol:

- The Central Bosnia Canton Mol recognises the importance of integrating a gender perspective in the planning and implementation of investigations related to firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Although the gender dimension has not yet been fully institutionalised across all police procedures, initial steps have been taken towards its integration. Police officers have participated in workshops and training sessions focused on incorporating a gender perspective into information gathering, victim engagement, and risk analysis in cases involving the unauthorised possession and misuse of firearms.
- Within police records and reports, basic data on the gender and age of suspects and victims are now being collected to enable gender-sensitive analysis of criminal activity. Additionally, the inclusion of female officers in committees and teams responsible for planning and coordinating arms control activities contributes to mainstreaming the gender perspective in decision-making processes.

Ministry of Security, Republika Srpska Mol, Brcko District Police, Posavina Canton Mol, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol reported no activities.

SIPA, Federal Police Administration, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, Sarajevo Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol provided no information.

### 3.8 Establishment and Operationalization of Firearms Focal Points

*Guiding questions:*

Was a Firearms Focal Point established during the reporting period? If not, please describe any activities undertaken to initiate its establishment.

Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board

- All relevant law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina have established or designated organisational units or officers responsible for matters related to the Firearms Focal Point (FFP). Work is currently underway on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the establishment of the FFP, with a deadline for completion set for 30 November 2025.
- On 21 May 2025, with the support of SEESAC, a one-day meeting was held in Sarajevo, bringing together 18 representatives of relevant agencies and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Ministry of Security of BiH, SIPA, Border Police BiH, the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska, and cantonal ministries of interior. The meeting focused on the drafting of the MoU, identified as a key step towards establishing a functional mechanism for the Firearms Focal Point in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<sup>13</sup> This could include activities related to integration of the gender perspective in CSI (particularly related to the FAE investigation in the context of domestic and gender based violence), activities in improving collection of sex and age disaggregated data by FFP or other units for instance (sex disaggregated data on: perpetrators of firearm related incidents, firearm owners, investigated persons or persons whose WAE were seized, number of WAE seized in the context of domestic violence, number of applications for firearms license approval rejected on grounds of domestic), or any gender training for professionals involved in WAE investigations, etc.

- Furthermore, three representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina — from the Border Police, the Federal Police Administration, and the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska — participated in the Annual Regional Workshop of the Firearms Focal Point Network, organised by SEESAC from 27 to 29 May 2025 on Igman Mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshop served as a platform for exchanging operational information, sharing experiences on threats and trends, and strengthening the capacity of FFP network members through specialised training on intelligence gathering. SEESAC also distributed to all participants copies of the publication “3D Printed Firearms: State, Challenges and Law Enforcement Responses,” translated into the respective local languages.

### 3.9 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

*Guiding question:*

Do you have direct access to SIENA?

Federal level (Ministry of Security, SIPA, Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH, Border Police BiH)

- SIPA: In accordance with its mandate, the Agency carries out activities and measures that include information exchange through EUROPOL, making full use of the support and cooperation mechanisms it provides. Communication and operational cooperation have been established in specific investigative cases related to the unauthorised trafficking of firearms and drugs, as well as in the exchange of information on individuals potentially connected to illicit firearms trafficking.
- Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH: After the local Contact Point for Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Europol became operational on 14 June 2023, the protected Europol communication channel (SIENA) was physically transferred from the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH. However, since June 2024, the Directorate has regained direct access to the SIENA channel as a “semi-private” user.
- Within its mandate for coordination and international operational police cooperation, the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH, through its Section for Cooperation with Europol, continues to play a significant role in international police cooperation, particularly in conducting international operational actions implemented under Europol’s EMPACT platform, often in collaboration with INTERPOL, FRONTEX, and other organisations.
- In this context, the Directorate actively exchanges information related to firearms, notably through participation in international operational actions under EMPACT Firearms, such as SEE JAD, Armstrong, Conversus, and others.
- Border Police BiH: During the reporting period, there was no exchange of data related to SALW.

Federal Mol: The Federal Police Administration conducts daily information exchange with EUROPOL and INTERPOL through the established I-24/7 communication system.

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- The Mol of Central Bosnia Canton has access to SIENA system through the Federal Mol or other federal institutions authorized for direct data exchange with EUROPOL. Mol officials may submit requests or exchange information via inter-institutional channels, but do not have direct access to the SIENA platform.

Republika Srpska Mol, Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, and Sarajevo Canton Mol reported to have access to SIENA.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol reported no access to SIENA.

Posavina Canton Mol provided no information.

### 3.10 Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences

*Guiding question:*

Did authorities implement specific measures or activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness

of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating firearms-related offences? If so, please describe.

Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, SIPA, Border Police BiH)

- Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board: With support provided through the LEAD project implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Guidebook for Investigations of Criminal Offences Related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW Investigation Guidebook) was finalised during the reporting period. This followed a final meeting held on 6–7 March 2025 with co-authors from the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH. The Guidebook was developed to provide practical guidance for police officers in handling cases involving firearms-related crimes. Following its completion, presentation and dissemination activities began, including outreach to six law enforcement agencies at the cantonal level during this reporting period.
- Additionally, with the support provided through the LEAD project implemented by UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Guidelines on Police Procedures Related to Illicit SALW and Explosive Devices – intended for use in police academy training – were finalised during the reporting period. Following a series of consultations, the final version of the document was verified, and the Guidelines will be integrated into the curricula of the three police academies in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Mostar.
- On 13 February 2025, representatives of police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina received 26 detectors for the detection of smuggled items, donated under a project implemented by UNDP BiH. This specialised equipment enhances the efficiency of detecting and preventing illicit trafficking in firearms and explosives, thereby directly contributing to strengthening the investigative and preventive capacities of police agencies in combating SALW-related criminal activities. Following the handover, training sessions were organised for police officers from 14 law enforcement agencies across Bosnia and Herzegovina on how to use the equipment.
- In early June 2025, with the support of UNDP BiH, a delivery and installation of general-purpose laboratory equipment – including workbenches and tools – was carried out in the entity forensic laboratories in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, further enhancing their technical and operational capacities.
- ITA: the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) and the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) jointly organised a Course on Investigating the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, held in Zagreb from 9–13 June 2025, which was also attended by an ITA BiH officer.
- Border Police BiH: During the reporting period, one operational action was carried out, resulting in the discovery of a certain quantity of firearms, and a report was submitted to the competent Prosecutor’s Office.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- During the reporting period, several cases were recorded related to the unauthorized possession of firearms and explosives (Article 371 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH).

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- During the reporting period, specific measures and activities were implemented to improve the efficiency of investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications in cases involving firearms-related criminal offences.
- Internal procedures for investigating firearms-related crimes were developed and updated, focusing on faster processing, registration, and monitoring of cases. Police officers underwent training sessions in the field of criminal investigation of firearms offences, covering topics such as evidence collection techniques, forensic analysis, and the interviewing of suspects and witnesses. The training also included modules on coordination with prosecutors’ offices to accelerate case processing. The Central Bosnia Canton Mol regularly monitors data on filed reports, seized weapons, indictments, and court rulings related to firearms offences.

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol reported no activities.

Federal Mol, Republika Srpska Mol, Posavina Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, and Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol provided no information.

### 3.11 Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken in improving inter-institutional cooperation at operational level? If so, please provide details.

Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, SIPA, Border Police BiH)

- Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board:
- The final meeting of AEA experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia was held in Belgrade from 28 to 30 May 2025, with the participation of six representatives from BiH (from the Federal Police Administration, the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska, and the Agency for Forensic Examinations and Expertise of BiH) and five representatives from Serbian Ministry of Interior. Supported by a joint UNDP BiH and UNDP Serbia project, the meeting focused on sharing experiences, presenting ongoing projects, and strengthening cooperation between forensic institutions.
- During the visit, participants toured the forensic departments of Serbian Ministry of Interior, further enhancing knowledge exchange and establishing a foundation for future collaboration. The meeting marked the successful completion of this planned project activity.
- SIPA: The Agency, in accordance with the law and its competences, exchanges information in a **timely manner with other law enforcement bodies, prosecutor's offices, and relevant agencies.**
- Border Police BiH: During the reporting period, one operational action was carried out, resulting in the discovery of a certain quantity of firearms. A report was submitted to the competent **Prosecutor's Office, and the action was conducted in cooperation with the Federal Police Administration.**

Federal MoI: During the reporting period, the Federal Police Administration carried out inter-institutional cooperation activities through participation in operational groups, coordination bodies, meetings, and workshops. In addition, several joint operational actions were conducted in cooperation with other agencies, in which the Federal Police Administration actively participated.

Brcko District Police

- No activities were undertaken on this matter apart from a memoranda of cooperation with other police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Central Bosnia Canton MoI

- **The MoI of Central Bosnia Canton maintains ongoing cooperation with prosecutor's offices, courts, other cantonal and entity police administrations, as well as federal-level institutions in the areas of WAE control. Cooperation is carried out through regular operational activities, information exchange, investigation coordination, and joint actions.**

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI: Cooperation between police agencies, as well as with the competent **prosecutor's offices and courts, is at a satisfactory level.**

Una-Sana Canton MoI, Tuzla Canton MoI, Sarajevo Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI reported no activities.

Republika Srpska MoI, Posavina Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI, and West-Herzegovina Canton MoI provided no information.

### 3.12 Participation in Joint Action Days

*Guiding question:*

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in your jurisdiction? Did you participate in a JAD operation during the reporting period? If so, please elaborate on your role and results.

Federal level (SIPA): Yes. The Agency participates in the implementation of all joint operational actions and appoints a coordinator, responsible officers, and organisational units for their execution.

Federal MoI: Yes. For each operational action (whether a JAD or another international operational action), the Federal Police Administration appoints its coordinator, who actively participates in the implementation of these actions, during which available information is exchanged, verifications are

carried out, and other related activities are undertaken.

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, Canton 10 MoI, and Sarajevo Canton MoI reported the appointment of a JAD Coordinator and no participation in any JAD operation.

Tuzla Canton MoI, Central Bosnia Canton MoI, and West-Herzegovina Canton MoI reported no JAD Coordinator and no participation in any JAD operations.

Ministry of Security, Border Police BiH, Republika Srpska MoI, Posavina Canton MoI, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI provided no information.

### 3.13 Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL

#### *Guiding question:*

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and/or Europol?

Federal level (SIPA, Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH, Border Police BiH, ITA)

- SIPA: Agency police officers regularly conduct criminal intelligence exchanges as part of efforts to combat criminal offences related to firearms, and they also submit analytical reports based on data obtained from encrypted applications. The Agency has received training and support aimed at establishing and improving the use of analytical tools, programmes, and software to enhance data analysis and reporting capacities.
- Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies BiH: Given the coordination mandate of the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in cooperation with the local EMPACT Contact Point, the Directorate has coordinated the submission of Bosnia and Herzegovina's proposals for operational actions within the EMPACT priorities, aligned with the established horizontal strategic objectives. The aim is the potential inclusion of these proposals in the Operational Action Plan (OAP) for the relevant area for the 2026–2027 period.
- These activities are ongoing, focusing on alignment with the action drivers and leaders, as well as exploring the possibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina participating as a co-lead in selected operational actions.
- ITA: Enforcement Department and Customs Department participated in the EMPACT operational action on firearms, code-named CONVERSUS, which focuses on countering the threat of illegal conversion of alarm and signal weapons into lethal firearms and other devices, a practice often favoured by individuals and organised criminal groups. The operational action commenced on 1 June 2025 and will run until 28 February 2026.
- The ITA confirmed its participation in the JAD SEE 2025 operational action, related to EMPACT priorities including related to firearms.

Federal MoI: All available capacities are currently being utilised.

Una-Sana Canton MoI: Yes, through checks conducted via the secure communication lines of NCB Interpol and Europol.

Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI reported information exchange with Europol through SIENA.

Brcko District Police, and Sarajevo Canton MoI reported using supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol but did not provide any detail.

Tuzla Canton MoI, Central Bosnia Canton MoI, West-Herzegovina Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI reported no use of any investigation tool offered by EMPACT and Europol.

Republika Srpska MoI, Posavina Canton MoI, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI provided no information.

### 3.14 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

#### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board:

- The Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska submitted a response to the Ministry of Security of

BiH in May 2025, expressing support for the UNDP proposal to extend the LEAD project “Sustainable Approach to Firearms Destruction in BiH”, for an additional 18 months. The response included a list of priority needs identified by the Ministry, relating to equipment and training in the field of SALW.

Tuzla Canton Mol: In order to initiate the accreditation process of the ballistic laboratory, it is necessary to expand the laboratory’s facilities and staffing capacity.

## SKOPJE

### 3.1 Strengthening Risk Analysis Systems and Preventing the Diversion of Arms Exports

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period? Did you publish an annual report on arms exports?

- There were no cases of diversion of arms export during the reporting period.
- There is no production of arms in North Macedonia. However, the Mol regularly publishes an annual report for the previous year, which includes data on ammunition authorisations and exports. The 2024 Annual Report of the Mol has been published and it is available in Macedonian on the Mol’s [website](#).
- During the reporting period, North Macedonia conducted 13 ammunition exports.
- Moreover, North Macedonia contributed input to the 2022 Regional Arms Export Report, which was published by SEESAC in January 2025.

### 3.2 Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were any activities undertaken during the reporting period to strengthen border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE? If yes, please describe the activities, type of border (land, air, maritime), and any cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions or international partners.

- The Customs Administration initiated the development of SALW-related SOPs during the reporting period. On 6–9 May 2025, customs officers and experts participated in a workshop for the development of the SOPs to prevent and address illicit firearms trafficking. The workshop, organised by SEESAC, was tailored to the recommendations of the 2024 Needs Assessment of the Custom Administration of North Macedonia to counter illicit firearms flows.
- During the reporting period, a handover took place of the received specialised equipment, including 8 drones, 25 inspection mirrors, 200 scout trail camera, 1 watercraft engine, 10 endoscopes, 100 flashlights, 100 personal computers, 15 laptops, thereby enhancing border control capacities.
- Border control was further enhanced through the acquisition of a storage container, installed at the Regional K9 Training and Certification Center to provide storage space for storing operational equipment to support the operational readiness and deployment of the K9 unit.

### 3.3 Control mechanisms for explosive precursors

#### *Guiding question:*

Is there a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors? If not, has work been initiated in establishing such mechanism? If so, please provide details on the establishment process.

No control mechanism is in place for explosive precursors.

### 3.4 Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units

*Guiding question:*

Has your Crime Scene Investigation unit been accredited? If not, are there any steps/activities undertaken in this regard?

No, but a number of activities have been undertaken in this regard, including:

- The continuation of the process for the adaptation and installation of the software package “SweetHome 3D” for processing CSI documentation.
- A handover
- of the following specialised equipment received by the Criminal Police took place during the reporting period: one drone, tablets, laptops, personal computers, laser printers, handheld metal detectors, videoscopes, ground metal detectors, day binoculars, head-mounted night vision binoculars, thermal imaging, binoculars, a CSI camera, portable reflectors, GPS trackers, flashlights for operational services.
- The receipt of 78 investigation kits, including 54 universal investigation kits and 24 post-mortem investigation kits, along with 41 photo cameras and external camera flashes. A portion of this equipment will be allocated to the new CSI Training and Simulation Facility at the MoI Training Center in Idrizovo, strengthening the facility’s ability to support advanced forensic training and enhance operational capabilities.

### 3.5 Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories

*Guiding question:*

Has your ballistic laboratory been accredited? If yes, please indicate which methods are accredited. If not, please describe the steps/activities undertaken in this regard.

The Ballistics Laboratory within the Department for Ballistics, Fires and Explosions of the Department for Forensic Examinations is accredited for two methods: comparative analysis of cartridge cases and comparative analysis of projectiles. Working instructions, SOPs and other relevant documents derived from the dedicated ISO standard framework have been prepared for both methods.

### 3.6 Increased capacities for online firearm-related crime investigations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities aiming to increase capacities of cybercrime units related to firearms online investigations during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.

Representatives of North Macedonia participated in the regional workshop organized by SEESAC on 25–26 February 2025 in Skopje, focused on the recovery of electronic evidence for law enforcement representatives and investigators from Western Balkan jurisdictions. The workshop enhanced North Macedonia’s capacities in digital forensics and the effective handling of electronic evidence.

### 3.7 Integration of a gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken to integrate gender perspective into regular procedures

and daily operations related to WAE investigations? If yes, please provide details.<sup>14</sup>

- On 10 and 12 June 2025, the Mol trainers facilitated two training sessions for police officers on the Guidelines for Assessing and Addressing Risks Related to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence and Guidelines for Gender Responsive Firearms License Approval, developed and published by SEESAC. The first session equipped police officers working with cases of domestic violence to identify and mitigate firearm-related risks in domestic violence cases. The second session equipped Mol officials and police officers responsible for license approval with the knowledge and skills to apply a gender-responsive approach during background checks. SEESAC supported the trainers from the Mol/Police Directorate in preparing and delivering both sessions.
- A three-day workshop in Berovo on implementing a gender-sensitive approach for CSI officers. The workshop was attended by police officers from all regional departments of the Mol, as well as officials from the Mol's Forensic Examination Department. The workshop represents a new step in strengthening protection against gender-based violence and implementing a victim-centered approach, particularly in cases involving the misuse of firearms. The participants were crime scene technicians from the CSI units of the Mol, aiming to ensure a gender-sensitive approach toward victims of violence.

### 3.8 Establishment and Operationalization of Firearms Focal Point

#### *Guiding questions:*

Is a Firearms Focal Point fully operational? More specifically:

- 1) Is the FFP collecting and sharing data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives?
  - 2) Is the FFP responsible for tracing and sending or answering to tracing requests?
  - 3) Has FFP direct access to SIENA?
  - 4) Is the FFP collecting and sharing ballistic data?
  - 5) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with any other jurisdiction? If so, which ones?
  - 6) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with the EU Member States? If so, which ones?
  - 7) Does FFP develop reports or knowledge products? If yes, please specify which products were produced in the reporting period, and to whom were these delivered.
- The FFP is not fully operational.
    - 1) The FFP collects and shares data on seized weapons, ammunition, and explosives.
    - 2) No. The FFP is not responsible for tracing and sending or answering to tracing requests.
    - 3) Activities are underway to connect the FFP with SIENA.
    - 4) Ballistic data are collected in the Department for Forensic Examinations, and it is planned that these data will also be monitored in the future through linking with I base.
    - 5) No. The FFP has not established a formal channel of communication with any other jurisdiction.
    - 6) No. The FFP has not established a formal channel of communication with the EU Member States
    - 7) Reports, analyses, assessments, and other documents are prepared on the situation, trends and modus operandi concerning firearms, seized weapons, ammunition and explosives. These are shared, as required, with the criminal police and other competent organisational units.
  - During the reporting period, the FFP also participated in the following activities:
    - On 25-26 March 2025, FFP representatives participated in the annual FFP meeting

---

<sup>14</sup> This could include activities related to integration of the gender perspective in CSI (particularly related to the FAE investigation in the context of domestic and gender based violence), activities in improving collection of sex and age disaggregated data by FFP or other units for instance (sex disaggregated data on: perpetrators of firearm related incidents, firearm owners, investigated persons or persons whose WAE were seized, number of WAE seized in the context of domestic violence, number of applications for firearms license approval rejected on grounds of domestic), or any gender training for professionals involved in WAE investigations, etc.

organised by the EU in Brussels.

- On 27-29 May 2025, the FFP representatives participated in the annual regional FFP workshop in Igman, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshop provided a platform for FFP members to share operational updates, exchange experiences on emerging threats and trends, and participate in specialised training on intelligence collection.

### 3.9 Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences

#### *Guiding question:*

Did authorities implement specific measures or activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating firearms-related offences? If so, please describe.

- Investigative capacities of the Criminal Police have been strengthened through the aforementioned specialised equipment, received jointly with the Border Police (drones, video scopes, metal detectors, telescopic mirrors, watercraft engines, flashlights, digital cameras, computers, laptops, and printers).
- On 8–9 April 2025, representatives of North Macedonia participated in the Regional Criminal Police Meeting in Tirana, Albania. The meeting, organised by SEESAC, contributed to enhanced understanding of emerging threats related to illicit firearms trafficking, particularly blank-firing weapons and their conversion.
- On 6 May 2025, representatives of North Macedonia also participated in the sub-regional workshop organised by UNODC in Tirana to advance effective application of the Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) in firearms trafficking cases, in line with the recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UNODC Working Group on Firearms.

### 3.10 Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation

#### *Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken in improving inter-institutional cooperation at operational level? If so, please provide details.

- Cooperation between **competent operational bodies within the MoI and the Public Prosecutor's Office** in conducting procedures and investigations related to criminal offences in the field of illicit arms trafficking is at a high level.

### 3.11 Participation in Joint Action Days

#### *Guiding question:*

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in your jurisdiction? Did you participate in a JAD operation during the reporting period? If so, please elaborate on your role and results.

No activities have been reported during the reporting period.

### 3.12 Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL

#### *Guiding question:*

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and/or Europol?

During the reporting period, North Macedonia did not use any of the Europol and EMPACT support tools related to SALW investigation.

### 3.13 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- Training and equipment for conducting dark-web investigations have been identified as a need.
- For the purpose of strengthening the security of evidentiary material, as well as ensuring sustainability and expanding accredited methods in the Department for Forensic Examinations related to weapons and ammunition, the following support is required:
  - procurement and installation of a video-surveillance and access-control system for workrooms handling evidentiary material, to document the chain of custody and preserve the integrity of evidence;
  - procurement of a Vacuum Metal Deposition (VMD) chamber to develop latent fingerprint traces on items such as firearms, bullets and cartridge cases;
  - procurement of a genetic analyser for DNA analysis of biological traces (for example, traces found on firearms, bullets, cartridge cases, projectiles, etc.);
  - procurement of an LC–MS/MS (MRM) instrument (Liquid Chromatography–Tandem Mass Spectrometry in Multiple Reaction Monitoring mode) for analysis of alcohols and metabolites in persons connected with weapons and ammunition;
  - intervention in the laboratory in the Department for Ballistics, Fires and Explosions to provide a ventilation duct and supply a fume hood (digester) to be connected to the ventilation duct;
  - procurement of a device for laser marking of ballistic traces from firearms (cartridge cases, projectiles, projectile fragments) found at scenes or obtained from test firings in laboratory conditions, to facilitate handling and work with such items during comparative microscopic analyses used to identify weapons used in criminal incidents;
  - procurement of a chronograph for measuring the velocity of projectiles fired from firearms;
  - provision of training (for example: external ballistics, comparative analysis of firearm trace evidence, topics within the domain of firearms and ammunition, gunshot residue analysis, etc.);
  - procurement of hearing protection (ear defenders), protective eyewear, and a tool for extracting projectiles from bullets;
  - procurement of a new comparison microscope for comparative analysis of cartridge-case and projectile traces.
- These needs have recently been identified by the competent organizational unit and will be addressed in due course with the support of international organizations, for which an official request will be submitted in line with established priorities.

## TIRANA

### 3.1 Strengthening Risk Analysis Systems and Preventing the Diversion of Arms Exports

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period? Did you publish an annual report on arms exports?

- No cases of diversion have been reported during the reporting period.
- In compliance with Article 12 of Law No. 46/2018, the Export Control Authority (AKSHE) carries out a risk analysis for each transfer before deciding on granting the license, and conducts the mandatory post-delivery verifications. Every entity licensed by AKSHE is legally obliged to submit a Certificate of Delivery Verification (CVD) and declare the exporting party. In practical terms, all licenses issued and executed by AKSHE contain a CVD.
- AKSHE has not published any report in the period January–June 2025. However, AKSHE contributed relevant data on arms exports for 2022 to the Regional Report on Arms Exports, published by SEESAC in January 2025.

### 3.2 Strengthening border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE

#### *Guiding questions:*

Were any activities undertaken during the reporting period to strengthen border control measures related to the cross-border crimes involving WAE? If yes, please describe the activities, type of border (land, air, maritime), and any cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions or international partners.

Through the following activities and respective results, as well as the receipt of specialised equipment, the Albanian Police contributed to strengthening efforts to address cross-border crimes involving WAE:

- Several firearms and other military items manufactured in recent years (2023–2024) were identified and seized, some of which according to verifications, were handled/sold by licensed Albanian companies. These cases were referred for examination to the Ballistics Examination Sector at the Institute of Scientific (Forensic) Police for determining the origin of the weapons, verifying their technical condition, and assessing their compatibility with previously recorded criminal events.
- As part of inspections in coastal areas, a quantity of suspected artisanal dynamite, used for illegal fishing, was seized.

In cooperation with customs authorities, a detailed inspection was conducted on a vehicle located inside a container at the port terminal. During the physical inspection, the following weapons and weapon parts were found and seized within a modified compartment of the vehicle, constituting a criminal offence pursuant to Article 278/a/2 “Trafficking of Arms and Ammunition” of the Criminal Code:

- 2 automatic firearms, model 56, caliber 7.62 mm
- 1 pistol firearm, caliber 7.65 mm
- 1,480 automatic bullets, caliber 7.62 mm
- 100 pistol bullets, caliber 7.65 mm
- 12 automatic magazines
- 1 pistol magazine
- During an exit checkpoint inspection at “Mother Teresa” International Airport, a pistol Zastava 8mm (P.A.K Serial Number: ET-1021665) equipped with 1 magazine and 5 bullets was seized.
- UNDP Albania has donated the following equipment to support activities related to border control, as part of the project “Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation for SALW Control (Phase I)”, in cooperation with the MoI and SEESAC:
  - 5 long-range day binoculars,
  - 5 medium-range thermal cameras
  - 5 medium-range night binoculars,
  - 2 drones for day and night use, with 60-minute flight capacity,
  - 2 portable scanners (for PKK Qafë Prush and Qafë Morinë),
  - 5 portable document scanners.
- The Home Office International Operations (HOIO) donated additional equipment to the Department for Border and Migration, including 4 DJI Mavic drones and 2 Buster K910G detectors.
- Germany’s Federal Ministry of Interior donated additional equipment, including:
  - 2 Opel Zafira Life vehicles,
  - 115 protective vests, category IIIA,
  - 2 HP ProBook 440 G11 laptops,
  - 9 VISOTEC® Expert 910 document readers.
- During the reporting period, the implementation of the project for improving the infrastructure of the Police Dog Training Institute also commenced, with the aim of enhancing the capabilities of K9 police dogs in detecting SALW, ammunition, and explosives.

As part of the efforts to prevent cross-border crimes, the Albanian Police have implemented the following measures:

- The Operational Plan JAD Danube 10 for joint patrols on Lake Shkodra between the Border Police of Albania, Montenegro, and FRONTEX, which took place on 21 June 2025.
- Collaboration with Neighboring Jurisdictions or International Partners, mainly through joint patrols on the green and blue borders, including:
  - Shkodra Local Border and Migration Directorate with Montenegro: 125 joint patrols.
  - Kukës Local Border and Migration Directorate (Qafë Morinë Border Police Station) with Montenegro: 3 joint patrols.
  - Kukës Local Border and Migration Directorate with Kosovo: 133 joint patrols.
  - Kukës Local Border and Migration Directorate (Dibër Border Police Commissariat) with North Macedonia: 15 joint patrols.
  - Korça Local Border and Migration Directorate (Border Police Stations of Qafë Thanë, Tushemisht, and Goricë) with North Macedonia: 40 joint patrols.
- As part of the fight against human trafficking, smuggling, and other cross-border crimes, and in collaboration with representatives from the HOIO Office at the British Embassy, a joint operational plan titled **“Combating Cross-Border Crimes”** was organized on 11-12 June 2025 at the following border crossing points: Port Vlorë, Qafë-Botë, Sarandë and Kakavijë, and Gjirokastër.
- The one-year joint operation with FRONTEX, titled **“JO Albania 2025”**, commenced on 22 January 2025 and will conclude on 21 January 2026, in accordance with the Status Agreement between Albania and the EU on **“Actions Undertaken by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Albania**. For this operation the International Coordination Center (ICC) in Warsaw, Poland and the Local Coordination Center (LCC) in Durrës, Albania, have been established dedicated to maritime border operations.
- Within the framework of this cooperation FRONTEX has currently deployed 39 officers in Albania during the period January - June 2025 at Port of Durrës Border Crossing Point, Port of Vlorë Border Crossing Point, and at the LCC/QNOD.
- During the reporting period, at the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operational Center, within the framework of cooperation with participating institutions, 45 maritime operations were carried out:
  - 17 maritime operations for border control and surveillance.
  - One maritime operation for monitoring and enforcing legality in maritime traffic and navigation safety.
- During January - June 2025, 9 joint maritime operations were carried out with Guardia di Finanza, FRONTEX, and the Montenegro Border Crossing Point.
- 827 sea patrols were conducted by the Border and Migration Police, resulting in the inspection of 197 vessels.
- 326 joint patrols were conducted by the Border and Migration Police and Guardia di Finanza. They resulted in the inspection of 6 vessels.
- 317 joint patrols were conducted by the Border and Migration Police and the Coast Guard, resulting in the inspection of 139 vessels.

In the framework of enhancing professional capacities for border police staff during January - June 2025, the following trainings were conducted:

- Training for police officers involved in FRONTEX joint operations;
- Training on the use of X-ray detectors and scanners;
- Trainings on the use of drones and scanners;
- Training on the use of two VSC devices;
- Training on combating forged documents and vehicles, MVCDO Roadshow;
- Technical-tactical data training on the weapon **“BERETTA” type PMX**;
- Familiarization and use of VEDETA 2000 navigation equipment;
- Training on strengthening biosafety and biosecurity measures at the front line in Eastern and Southeastern Europe;
- Implementation of standard procedures for service organization, training, rules, criteria, and the use and control of police dogs;
- The Customs Administration initiated the development of SALW-related SOPs during the reporting period. On 2–5 June 2025, custom officers participated in a workshop in Tirana for the development

of the SOPs to prevent and address illicit firearms trafficking. The workshop, organised by SEESAC, was tailored to the recommendations of the 2024 Needs Assessment of the Custom Administration to counter illicit firearms flows.

### 3.3 Control mechanisms for explosive precursors

#### *Guiding question:*

Is there a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors? If not, has work been initiated in establishing such mechanism? If so, please provide details on the establishment process.

- There is no legal framework to address explosive precursors, and the control mechanism for such precursors is not specifically regulated. The MoI has taken steps to propose a regulation and has drafted an assessment analysis of the institutional and legal framework regarding the control of precursors and explosives.
- Following the request for an assessment of institutional responsibilities in support of the analysis and the legal initiative on explosive precursors, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the General Directorate of Customs, the AKSHE, and the Ministry of Defense have submitted their feedback.
- After receiving the feedback from all institutions, a meeting will be organized to discuss their contributions and the preliminary review of the new act or the necessary legal amendments.

### 3.4 Accreditation of the Crime Scene Investigation units

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your Crime Scene Investigation unit been accredited? If not, are there any steps/activities undertaken in this regard?

- The Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit is not yet accredited, but standard procedures for this purpose have been followed. The following equipment donated by SEESAC in April 2025 has strengthened the CSI's professional and logistical capacities in cases related to firearm investigation:
  - 37 HP desktop computers with monitors (HP Pro SFF400G9 and HP P27G5 27" IPS monitors)
  - 1 HP laptop (HP ProBook 46511 Notebook PC)
  - 1 Epson photo printer (SureColor SC-700/C11C)
  - 90 Nikon D7500 digital reflex cameras with 18–140mm lenses (each with a case, battery, and memory card)
  - 14 kits for explosive detection
  - 16 containers for the safe storage of biological substances
  - 31 projectors (each with two batteries, one charger, and one adaptor)
  - 91 universal kits for crime scene investigation
- This equipment has been distributed to the Sections for Trafficking Investigation within the Regional Police Directorates, as well as to the Institute of Forensic Police. Other material were sent to the Institute of Forensic Police.

### 3.5 Accreditation of the Ballistic Laboratories

#### *Guiding question:*

Has your ballistic laboratory been accredited? If yes, please indicate which methods are accredited. If not, please describe the steps/activities undertaken in this regard.

- The ballistics laboratory has not been accredited yet. However, standard procedures have been followed for the standardisation of several types of expert examinations. In this context, internal proficiency tests and proficiency tests conducted by licensed companies have been carried out.
- In cooperation with the Quality Management Sector, further steps are underway toward accreditation.

### 3.6 Increased capacities for online firearm-related crime investigations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities aiming to increase capacities of cybercrime units related to firearms online investigations during the reporting period? If yes, please describe.

During the first half of 2025, the following activities were carried out aimed at strengthening professional capacities related to the investigation of online crimes involving firearms:

- On 25–26 February 2025, a regional workshop was held on digital forensics and the effective handling of electronic evidence.
- On 2–5 June 2025, 15 specialists from the Criminal Police Department responsible for investigating firearm- and cybercrime-related crimes, as well as 3 prosecutors from district prosecutor’s offices participated in a training course entitled “Dedicated Training on Dark Web and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)”. The training, organised by UNDP, took place in Podgorica and it focused on investigating criminal offences involving firearms.
- On 11–12 June 2025, 24 police officers responsible for investigating criminal offences related to firearms participated in the training “Proactive Investigation of Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives Trafficking” that took place at the Security Academy.

### 3.7 Integration of a gender perspective into WAE-related investigation procedures and operations

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken to integrate gender perspective into regular procedures and daily operations related to WAE investigations? If yes, please provide details.<sup>15</sup>

- Moreover, since its establishment, the FFP has continuously collected and analysed data disaggregated by age and gender of perpetrators of firearm-related offences and the victims, including information on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. The same procedure apply to cases of firearm-related domestic violence.
- During the reporting period, 15 representatives from the Albanian Police participated in the training “Implementation of the Guidelines for the Assessment and Addressing of Risks Related to the Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence”. The training focused on strengthening capacities for the identification, assessment, and effective addressing of risks related to the presence and misuse of firearms in domestic violence cases.
- During the reporting period, a report on legal firearm possession in Albania for the period 2022–2024, with data disaggregated by gender, was prepared and submitted to SEESAC. The report identified 548 perpetrators of criminal offences involving firearms, of whom 539 were men and 9 were women.
- During the first half of 2025, firearms were involved in 20 cases of domestic violence, in all of which men were the victim:
  - In 14 cases, firearms were found during searches of the perpetrator’s home or other premises;
  - In 4 cases, firearms were used to threaten the victim;
  - In 2 cases, firearms were used lethally, resulting in three fatalities:
  - In one case, the perpetrator’s father was killed with a TT model firearm, calibre 7.62 mm;
  - In another case, two brothers were killed with Zastava and Model 54 firearms.
- During this period, 25 individuals were registered as victims in cases of domestic violence involving the use of firearms, of whom:
  - 17 women,
  - 8 men (including three who were killed).
- Relationship between victims and perpetrators:

<sup>15</sup> This could include activities related to integration of the gender perspective in CSI (particularly related to the FAE investigation in the context of domestic and gender based violence), activities in improving collection of sex and age disaggregated data by FFP or other units for instance (sex disaggregated data on: perpetrators of firearm related incidents, firearm owners, investigated persons or persons whose WAE were seized, number of WAE seized in the context of domestic violence, number of applications for firearms license approval rejected on grounds of domestic), or any gender training for professionals involved in WAE investigations, etc.

- 7 cases: spouses;
- 3 cases: parents of the perpetrator;
- 2 cases: relatives (the perpetrator's uncle and niece);
- 2 cases: children of the perpetrator (four children in total);
- 3 cases: cohabiting or former partners;
- 3 cases: siblings of the perpetrator.
- Victims by age group:
  - Age 0–18: 2 individuals;
  - Age 19–35: 9 individuals;
  - Age 36–60: 8 individuals;
  - Age 61+: 6 individuals.

### 3.8 Establishment and Operationalization of Firearms Focal Points

#### *Guiding questions:*

- Is a Firearms Focal Point fully operational? More specifically:
- 1) Is the FFP collecting and sharing data on seizures of weapons, ammunition and explosives?
  - 2) Is the FFP responsible for tracing and sending or answering to tracing requests?
  - 3) Has FFP direct access to SIENA?
  - 4) Is the FFP collecting and sharing ballistic data?
  - 5) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with any other jurisdiction? If so, which ones?
  - 6) Has your FFP established a formal channel of communication with the EU Member States? If so, which ones?
  - 7) Does FFP develop reports or knowledge products? If yes, please specify which products were produced in the reporting period, and to whom were these delivered.
- Since its establishment as a permanent organisational structure within the Police, the FFP has continued its work to strengthen its operational and analytical capacities. The FFP currently consists of 3 specialists and the head of unit, responsible for the collection and analysis of all data related to firearms.
    - 1) The FFP collects and analyses data related to firearms, including criminal offences committed with firearms, cases of firearm seizures, trafficking trends, geographic distribution of firearms and offences, and the age and gender of perpetrators and victims.  
  
The FFP also conducts detailed analyses of specific cases of firearms trafficking, sharing relevant case information with EUROPOL, INTERPOL, Liaison Officers, and other competent authorities in locations suspected of being destinations or transit points for trafficked firearms. Reports and analyses produced by the Unit are disseminated within and beyond the structures of the Police, with the aim of strengthening control and prevention measures, ensuring more comprehensive and intelligence-led investigations of firearm-related offences.
    - 2) The FFP is responsible for tracing and verifying firearms through its access to the Police information systems (TIMS, DEEPSEE, SIMA, and MEMEX) and the international iARMS system, to which direct access has recently been established. Work is currently under way to trace firearms seized across Albania through this system. Members of the FFP use the iARMS platform following initial training provided by INTERPOL Tirana. However, advanced and comprehensive training on the system has not yet been conducted.  
  
The FFP also submits tracing requests and responds to requests from other local structures such as the **Prosecutor's Office** and various divisions of the Police, as well as international partners and institutions..
    - 3) The FFP does not have direct access to the SIENA communication channel. However, SIENA is regularly used to exchange information with EUROPOL, including Standard Operational

Plans, data, and intelligence supporting the implementation of JADs and subsequent post-operation analyses.

Through this channel, in specific cases of arms and ammunition trafficking, the FFP also exchanges information and requests data from other counterparts when cases involve detained individuals from Albania, seized weapons, or other police information. Data and information are also exchanged with regional and EU counterparts regarding specific cases of trafficking and seizure of SALW.

As part of **EUROPOL's analytical project "Weapons and Explosives"**, the FFP produces bulletins on trends in trafficking, conversion, and production of SALW, which are disseminated to operational field structures. These bulletins also identify threats and risks arising from cases that have investigated in Albania, serving as risk analysis input for the FFP counterparts across the EU and the region.

- 4) The FFP collects ballistic data, which are provided by the Ballistics Laboratory of the Institute of the Scientific Police.
  - 5) The FFP maintains an official email address under the Albanian Police domain, which is used for communication with the FFPs counterparts in the region.
  - 6) The FFP communicates with EU member states through the official SIENA communication channel, facilitated via EUROPOL. However, the FFP does not yet have direct access to this communication channel.
  - 7) The FFP has developed several reports aimed at knowledge production regarding firearms situation in Albania, as well as identifying emerging trends in arms production, conversion, and trafficking. During the reporting period, the FFP prepared and distributed to all police structures several reports and risk analyses, including the following:
    - A risk analysis on the production of counterfeit HS-type pistols;
    - An analytical report on the trafficking of M93-type hand grenades.
    - A bi-annual report for the period January–June 2025, containing detailed data and findings.
- As a member of the SALW Commission, the FFP has participated in coordinating and reporting **meetings on Albania's progress in implementing the Strategy on SALW and Explosive Control 2025–2030** and the accompanying Action Plan 2025–2027. Other activities included:
    - Two specialists from the FFP participated in the Annual FFP Meeting organised by DG HOME of the European Commission on 25–26 March 2025 in Brussels.
    - An FFP representative attended the Annual Criminal Police Meeting organised by SEESAC, with the participation of representatives from South-East Europe and the Ministry of Interior, held on 8–9 April 2025 in Tirana.
    - Representatives from Albanian law enforcement agencies – including prosecutors, judges, and judicial police officers – together with counterparts from North Macedonia, Kosovo, Italy, Sweden, and France, participated in a meeting organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the "Justitia" Project, on "Application of Special Investigative Measures for Firearms-Related Offences", held on 6 May 2025 in Tirana.
    - **Sector representatives took part in the operational meeting on "Operation No Chance"**, held in Ioannina, Greece, on 5–7 May 2025.
    - Representatives of the FFP participated in the 13th Local Roadmap Coordination Meeting, held on 12 June 2025 in Tirana.
    - FFP representatives participated in the Annual Regional FFP Workshop, held on 27–29 May 2025 in Igman, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
    - A specialist from the FFP attended an online meeting with the European Commission on 26 June 2025, concerning the fulfilment of Interim Benchmarks.
    - Members of the FFP attended a training session on the use of the SIMA system, aimed at verifying the number of seized firearms, and were granted direct access to the system.
    - **During the reporting period, full access to INTERPOL's iARMS system was granted to the entire FFP, enabling its effective use for operational tasks.** Subsequently, dedicated activities were

organised to ensure accurate utilisation of the platform, with the goal of enhancing technical capacities and improving international cooperation in the field of arms control.

- Sector representatives participated in the training on “Dark Web and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)”, held on 2–5 June 2025 in Montenegro.
- Specialists of the FFP attended an online training session on 20 June 2025 under the framework of the IE Capacity Plan 2024–2025, titled “Preparation of the EU Acquis Translation Plan – Legal Obligations and Requirements for Translation.”
- A representative of the FFP participated in an online training on the use of the E-Platform, held on 23 June 2025.
- Sector representatives participated in the first EMPACT Meeting, held on 26–27 February 2025 in Tirana, which gathered all local contact points and presented the state of play of the Joint Action Days (JADs), specifically regarding SALW.
- Sector representatives attended the Second EMPACT Strategic Meeting on Firearms OAP 2024–2025, focusing on the Post-Operational Phase of SEE JAD 2024, held on 12–13 March 2025 in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- Members of the Central Firearms Focal Point took part in the initial meeting of the new ISF FORTIFY initiative, organised by the EMPACT Platform and KEU, held on 8–9 April 2025 in Madrid.
- Representatives of the FFP attended the coordination meeting for “Operation Conversus and Operation Armstrong”, organised by EMPACT and held in Madrid, Spain, on 21–22 May 2025, with participation from EU and Western Balkan jurisdictions, as well as Moldova and Ukraine.
- A representative of the FFP participated in an online meeting on the Joint Action Days in South-East Europe (JAD SEE) 2025, held on 26 June 2025, focused on intelligence and operational phases.

### 3.9 Effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of firearm-related offences

#### *Guiding question:*

Did authorities implement specific measures or activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of detecting, investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating firearms-related offences? If so, please describe.

During the reporting period, the authorities undertook the following activities to enhance the effectiveness of the investigation, prosecution, or adjudication of criminal offenses related to firearms:

- The UNODC seminar held in Tirana on 26 March 2025, which aimed to strengthen the capacities of criminal justice officials in Albania to investigate and prosecute firearms-related offenses.
- On 6 May 2025, UNODC organized a sub-regional seminar to advance the effective application of Special Investigative Measures (SIMs) in firearms trafficking cases. The event gathered criminal justice officials from Tirana, Skopje, and Pristina.

The general jurisdiction prosecution offices conducted the following investigations related to firearms:

- For the criminal offence provided under **Article 278**, “Unlawful possession and production of weapons, explosive weapons, and ammunition” of the Criminal Code, 159 criminal proceedings were registered involving 97 defendants. A total of 92 criminal proceedings, with 104 defendants, were sent for trial, resulting in 81 convictions.
- In 20 cases, investigations were not initiated, while 24 criminal proceedings were dismissed (the number of dismissed proceedings also includes cases carried over from 2024).
- For the criminal offence provided under **Article 278/a**, “Trafficking of weapons and ammunition” of the Criminal Code, 6 criminal proceedings were registered involving 5 defendants. Two criminal proceedings, with 4 defendants, were sent for trial, resulting in 2 convictions.
- For the criminal offence “Trafficking of explosive, flammable, and poisonous substances,” as provided under Article 282/2 of the Criminal Code, one criminal proceeding was registered with one defendant. One case, involving the same defendant, was sent for trial, with no convictions recorded.

- The criminal proceedings sent for trial for this group of offences also include cases carried over from the previous year, for which investigations were completed and referred for trial during the reporting period (the first six months of 2025).
- A comparison of the data with the same period of the previous year (2024) indicates that the number of registered proceedings remains at the same level; however, there is an increase in the number of proceedings and individuals referred for trial. This reflects an improvement in the efficiency of investigations into criminal offences in the field of arms.
- For the period January–June 2025, a total of 208 individuals were tried in the First Instance Courts of General Jurisdiction for criminal offences, including both crimes and misdemeanours. Of these, 193 individuals were convicted, 8 cases were dismissed, and 7 individuals were acquitted. In total, for all criminal offences provided under the Criminal Code, the courts convicted 4,340 individuals for crimes and 692 individuals for misdemeanours. Of these, 193 individuals (3.8%) were convicted for the offences listed in the table.
- Among the 193 convicted individuals for these offences, 12 individuals (0.2%) were sentenced to fines; 40 individuals (0.8%) were sentenced to imprisonment of up to 2 years; 30 individuals (0.6%) were sentenced to imprisonment from 2 to 5 years; 24 individuals (0.5%) were sentenced to imprisonment from 5 to 10 years; and 87 individuals (1.7%) received alternative sentences.

### 3.10 Strengthening inter-institutional operational cooperation

*Guiding question:*

Were there any activities undertaken in improving inter-institutional cooperation at operational level? If so, please provide details.

During the first six months of 2025, Albania, through its contact points, participated in preparatory meetings for the upcoming JAD SEE under the International Operation for South-East Europe, several of which were held in Albania. Specifically:

- Representatives of the FFP participated in the first EMPACT meeting, held on 26–27 February 2025 in Tirana, with the participation of all contact points. The meeting presented the status of the Joint Action Days, specifically related to SALW.
- FFP representatives attended the second EMPACT Strategic Meeting on Firearms OAP 2024–2025, focused on the Post-Operational Phase of SEE JAD 2024, held on 12–13 March 2025 in The Hague, the Netherlands.
- Members of the FFP participated in the initial meeting of the new ISF FORTIFY initiative, organized by EMPACT and KEU, held on 8–9 April 2025 in Madrid, Spain.
- FFP representatives also took part in the coordination meeting for the police operations “Conversus” and “Armstrong”, organized by EMPACT and held in Madrid, Spain, from 21 to 22 May 2025, with participation from EU Member States, Western Balkan jurisdictions, as well as Moldova and Ukraine.
- On 26 June 2025, representatives of the FFP participated in an online coordination meeting for the Joint Action Days in South-East Europe (JAD SEE) 2025, focusing on the intelligence and operational phases.
- In addition, during this period, the FFP developed the Operational Plan “Armstrong” in cooperation with the Customs Authority of Albania.

### 3.11 Participation in Joint Action Days

*Guiding question:*

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in your jurisdiction? Did you participate in a JAD operation during the reporting period? If so, please elaborate on your role and results.

- During the reporting period, a local coordinator was appointed for EMPACT-related activities. The FFP has been an active participant in EMPACT’s planned activities for the first half of the year.
- Preparatory activities for the SEE JAD operation were conducted, including debriefing meetings and intelligence phase discussions. The FFP also acted as a coordinator in several international

- operations, including Armstrong, Conversus, and SEE JAD.
- For each international operation in which Albania participated, a corresponding report was prepared and submitted to EUROPOL, outlining the achieved results.

### 3.12 Use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL

#### *Guiding question:*

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and/or Europol?

During the reporting period, the investigative support instruments provided by EMPACT and/or EUROPOL were continuously utilized in investigative activities. These instruments have been assessed as highly important in facilitating information exchange, coordination with international partners, and providing operational and analytical support in the context of investigations related to firearms trafficking.

### 3.13 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

#### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- During the reporting period, the criminalistics service at the central level identified several needs for improving its performance, which have been incorporated into a project proposal submitted to SEESAC. These needs include the improvement of the working premises used by members of the criminalistics service, both at the central and regional levels.
- A considerable portion of the requested equipment was procured and distributed with funding from SEESAC. Within the framework of requests submitted to support the criminalistics service, the provision of vehicles for the units was also included. However, this request has not received support. The following equipment are pending delivery:
  - 1 HPE ProLiant DL380 Gen10 server with HPE MSA 2062 storage.
  - **Individual software license for Analyst's Notebook i2.**
  - 3 laptops.
  - **4 advanced computers dedicated to the use of Analyst's Notebook.**
- Regarding infrastructure, including working premises (offices and the building of the Institute of Forensic Police), formal support has been received. However, no concrete progress has been made thus far in improving conditions.

## ROADMAP GOAL 4

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention<sup>16</sup> (KPIs 9, 10, and 13)

<p>Roadmap Overall Targets:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition and explosives.</li> <li>2. Strengthen public trust in security institutions and develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy and outreach.</li> <li>3. Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE.</li> <li>4. Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men<sup>17</sup> on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs.</li> <li>5. Increase public awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting.</li> <li>6. Increase the partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence.</li> <li>7. Systematically use legalization of firearms and voluntary surrender of WAE as means for reducing illicit possession and misuse.</li> <li>8. Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal possession of firearms.</li> </ol>
<p>Progress information on Goal 4 Overall Targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the dangers of misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE;</li> <li>2. Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE, including activities specifically targeting young men and activities on the dangers of celebratory shootings;</li> <li>3. Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence;</li> <li>4. Partnership with the media;</li> <li>5. Public education on FAE legal framework;</li> <li>6. Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms;</li> <li>7. Deactivation of firearms;</li> <li>8. Challenges, needs identified, and support required</li> </ol>

### BELGRADE

#### 4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the dangers of misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE

<sup>16</sup> Legalization and deactivation are not applicable for ammunition and explosives.

<sup>17</sup> Young men: men aged 18 to 35 years old.

*Guiding question:*

Were there any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (including producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, collectors, postal operators, etc) on the dangers of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risk of diversion of arms ammunition, and explosives? If yes, please provide details.

- During live firing, exercises on training grounds, and tactical-technical demonstrations at shooting ranges, as well as during “Open Day” events, participants and visitors were informed on the dangers of the misuse and illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Particular emphasis was put on safe storage and protection from access to firearms by untrained and under-age individuals.

#### 4.2 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of WAE? If yes, please provide details.

Where there any activities specifically targeting *young men*?

Were any specific awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on the dangers of *celebratory shootings* during the reporting period? If so, please provide details.

- The Mol continued activities under the campaign “Oružje pod ključ” (“Weapon Under Lock”) to raise awareness of the proper and safe handling of legally owned weapons and ammunition. The campaign included the production and broadcasting of promotional videos on the Ministry’s social media, featuring the Olympic gold medallist in shooting, Damir Mikec, and Dragan Ristić, paralympic gold medallist. Their involvement contributed to attracting public attention to the importance of responsible and safe storage of weapons. In addition to the videos, the campaign was accompanied by educational posts on social media, providing additional informational context and guidance to the general population.
- In May 2025, at the Hunting and Fishing Fair held in Kragujevac, promotional materials for the safe storage of firearms were distributed at the Mol stand, in cooperation with the Police Directorate. The active presence of the Mol at events where both firearm owners and other interested persons gather has been recognised as a key factor in raising awareness on safe storage and proper use of weapons.
- The Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported the implementation of the project “Otac, brat, partner, drug – uloga muškaraca u prevenciji nasilja nad ženama” (“Father, Brother, Partner, Friend – The Role of Men in Preventing Violence Against Women”), which will be published in the daily newspaper Danas, with funds in the amount of 940,000.00 dinars. The project applicant is “Akademska inicijativa Forum 10” from Novi Pazar. The project examines the importance of engaging men in combating violence against women through education and changing harmful gender norms. Its aim is to raise awareness and educate the public on how men can contribute to preventing violence, through a series of media contents including articles, interviews, and reports. The focus is on young people, men of all ages, as well as the wider public, with an emphasis on legislative changes, media responsibility, and recognising violence in the community.
- Through direct communication between police officers and individuals, 598 individuals were informed about the risks of negligent possession and use of SALW. Preventive activities were carried out by general jurisdiction police officers via the Mobile Information Centre, as well as during checks/reviews of the proper storage of weapons.
- Through preventive activities of police officers in regional police directorates, 497 individuals were informed about the dangers of “celebratory shootings”. These activities were conducted by general jurisdiction police officers via the Mobile Information Centre, as well as through preventive activities implemented in the areas of the police directorates.

#### 4.3 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

*Guiding question:*

Were there any specific awareness-raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence? If so, please provide details.

- Four focus groups were held in late January and early February 2025 in Niš, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, as part of the UNDP project “Reduce Risk, Increase Safety – Phase 3”. The objective of the two-hour focus group sessions was to assess measures for more effective protection of victims and to identify ways to prevent gender-based violence and femicide committed with firearms in long-term.
- As part of the same project, a consultative meeting on preventing firearm-related domestic violence was held between representatives of the Criminal Police Directorate and the Department for the Suppression of Blood and Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence in April 2025. At this meeting, UNDP provided participants with a draft document entitled “Developing Evidence-Based Recommendations for More Effective Prevention and Risk Reduction of Violence in the Family-Partner Context through the Misuse of Firearms”. The MoI submitted its comments on this document to UNDP in June 2025.
- In the framework of the 2025 public competitions in the field of public information, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported two projects under the priority theme “Prevention of Domestic Violence, Gender-Based Violence and Violence Involving the Use of Firearms”:
  - Under the Competition for Co-financing Television Media Content Production Projects in 2025, the project “Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Territory of the Zlatibor District” was supported and will be broadcast on TV 5 Užice. The project, implemented by the company TV-5 DOO Užice, was co-financed in the amount of 1,600,000.00 dinars. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the problem of domestic violence, with particular focus on violence against women, in both urban and rural areas of the Zlatibor District.
  - Under the Competition for Co-financing Radio Media Content Production Projects in 2025, the project “Report – Save” (“Prijavi – spasi”) was supported and will be broadcast on CITY RADIO. The project, implemented by CITY RADIO DOO Subotica, was co-financed in the amount of 1,000,000.00 dinars. The aim of the project is to raise awareness among the general population in Vojvodina about the importance of reporting domestic violence as one of the most important forms of its prevention. The goal is to create media content that encourages individuals to recognise violence in their surroundings – in their neighbourhood, among relatives, friends or acquaintances – and to react in a timely manner.

#### 4.4 Partnership with the media

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities planned or conducted to increase the partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms enabled violence?

#### 4.5 Public education on FAE legal framework

*Guiding question:*

Were any public education activities or campaigns planned or organized on *newly adopted legal framework* on FAE.

- The activities are planned in the Draft Action Plan for the Implementation of SALW Control Programme 2025–2030 and will be carried out following the adoption of the new legal framework.

#### 4.6 Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was any legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period? If yes, please describe the activities and results.

- During the reporting period, 7,880 pieces of weapons held in legal possession were surrendered.
- SALW control legislation provides that the owner of registered weapons may at any time surrender the weapon, free of charge, to the competent organisational unit of the MoI. In this case a certificate of surrender of the weapon to the ownership of Serbia will be issued as defined by the Rulebook on the Procedure for Issuing, Appearance and Content of Forms and Documents on Weapons Provided for by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.

#### 4.7 Deactivation of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period? If yes, please describe any results. If not, please describe any challenges.

- During the reporting period, 472 pieces of registered weapons were deactivated.
- The owner of registered weapons can submit a request for the deactivation of the weapon to legal entities authorised for testing, proof-marking and marking of weapons, to legal entities authorised for the production of weapons, or to legal entities and entrepreneurs authorised for the repair and modification of weapons (authorised gunsmiths/service providers).

#### 4.8 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- Within the framework of cooperation between the MoI and UNDP on the project “Reduce Risk, Increase Safety – Phase 3”, additional workshops are needed to train and inform police officers across Serbia on cases of firearm-related domestic violence.
- Following the adoption of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, it will be necessary to further inform all categories of stakeholders about the new legal framework and to raise awareness of the dangers of firearms misuse.
- Additional support from international organisations that have already provided this type of assistance is required.

## PODGORICA

#### 4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the dangers of misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE

*Guiding question:*

Were there any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (including producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, collectors, postal operators, etc) on the dangers of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risk of diversion of arms ammunition, and explosives? If yes, please provide details.

- There is a low level of awareness among institutions, particularly regarding the risks of illicit trafficking conducted through express or regular mail and online platforms. Additionally, transport companies and courier services demonstrate limited awareness of the threat posed by illicit

trafficking.

- Some awareness-raising activities are planned within the campaign, but have not yet been implemented.

#### 4.2 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of WAE? If yes, please provide details.

Were there any activities specifically targeting *young men*?

Were any specific awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on the dangers of *celebratory shootings* during the reporting period? If so, please provide details.

- To enhance the skills and strengthen the capacities of representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Police Directorate of Montenegro in planning and implementing awareness-raising activities, staff participated in a series of trainings organised by SEESAC in Podgorica and Petrovac:
  - 14–15 April (Podgorica): Planning, designing and implementing a campaign
  - 16–17 April (Podgorica): Crisis communication
  - 10–11 June (Petrovac): Public speaking
  - 12–13 June (Petrovac): Use of social media
- A targeted awareness-raising campaign **“Respect Life – Return Your Weapon”** has been planned, upgraded compared to the previous campaign launched in 2015. The start of the new campaign, developed by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, was initially scheduled for January 2025. However, due to the tragic event that occurred on 1 January 2025 in Cetinje, it was assessed that the moment was not appropriate to launch a new campaign, and the existing campaign was instead intensified. The call for the general population to voluntarily surrender firearms received a strong response, resulting in the handover of several thousand pieces of weapons, weapon parts and ammunition in a short period of time.
- The planned campaign will be implemented following the adoption of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition.
- No direct activities targeting young men were conducted. Young men are disproportionately represented among both the perpetrators and victims of firearm-related incidents. They also constitute the majority of individuals who have expressed intent to own firearms for reasons related to tradition, hunting, or personal safety. The activity was planned within the campaign and will be implemented at a later stage.
- The activity was planned within the campaign and will be implemented at a later stage.

#### 4.3 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

*Guiding question:*

Were there any specific awareness-raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence? If so, please provide details.

- The issue of firearms misuse in the context of gender-based and domestic violence was also planned to be addressed through the above-mentioned campaign implemented in cooperation with the OSCE, and will be carried out at a later stage. Nonetheless, through numerous TV appearances, school workshops, lectures delivered within various projects, and other outreach activities, representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Police Directorate have continuously contributed to raising public awareness about the misuse of firearms in cases of domestic violence and violence against women.

#### 4.4 Partnership with the media

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities planned or conducted to increase the partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms enabled violence?

- From 10 to 14 February 2025, the Head of SALW Commission completed a media communication and public appearance training in Podgorica, with a focus on improving media visibility and ensuring an appropriate approach to media reporting on SALW-related issues. The training was provided by SEESAC.
- It is important to note that the media have proven to be a reliable partner on the topic of firearms misuse. They actively participated in the Respect Life – Return Your Weapon campaign, consistently disseminating accurate and verified information provided daily by the Ministry of Interior. A large number of thematic TV programmes were organised, in which representatives of the Ministry of Interior participated and continuously appealed to the general population to voluntarily surrender firearms. The media also showed strong interest during the public consultation process on the Draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition, attending in large numbers all roundtable discussions that were organised.

#### 4.5 Public education on FAE legal framework

*Guiding question:*

Were any public education activities or campaigns planned or organized on *newly adopted legal framework* on FAE.

- With the aim of raising awareness among women and men about the dangers of potential firearms misuse, officers of the **Mol's** Civil Status and Identity Documents Unit actively informed the general population during the reporting period about the possibilities of firearm deactivation. By opting for deactivation, individuals can retain the weapon in their ownership (as a keepsake), while at the same time contributing to a safer social environment and reducing risks to the community.

#### 4.6 Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was any legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period? If yes, please describe the activities and results.

- The activity “Respect Life – Return Your Weapon” continued throughout the reporting period, during which the general population of Montenegro voluntarily surrendered 3,942 weapons, 130,088 rounds of ammunition, 439 hand grenades, and 97 kilograms of explosives (between 2 January and 20 October 2025).
- In the period between 1 January and 30 June 2025, a total of 756 weapons were seized, including 112 gas-fired weapons, 593 firearms, and 51 air rifles. Of the seized firearms, 103 were found to be in illegal possession.

#### 4.7 Deactivation of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period? If yes, please describe any results. If not, please describe any challenges.

- During the reporting period (01 January – 30 June 2025), deactivation was used as a method to

reduce firearm possession, resulting in the deactivation of 136 firearms. These included: 70 short-barrel firearms (pistols and revolvers), 62 long-barrel firearms (hunting rifles and carbines), and 4 long-barrel automatic firearms.

- A year-on-year comparison shows a steady increase in the number of deactivated firearms: 31 in 2023, 53 in 2024, and 136 in 2025, representing rises of +107%, +70%, and +157%, respectively.
- These results are directly linked to coordinated efforts by the FFP and the Ministry of Interior, including targeted analysis of the local registry of legally held firearms and outreach activities informing the general population about options for disposing of weapons during inheritance procedures.

#### 4.8 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

##### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

No challenges or needs for support have been reported under Goal 4.

## PRISTINA

### 4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the dangers of misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE

##### *Guiding question:*

Were there any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (including producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, collectors, postal operators, etc) on the dangers of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risk of diversion of arms ammunition, and explosives? If yes, please provide details.

- At the beginning of 2025, the Ministry of Internal Affairs planned and initiated preparations for awareness-raising and information activities aimed at increasing public awareness of the risks associated with the misuse, illicit proliferation, and diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. These activities included the establishment of an inter-institutional team to plan and implement the campaign **“Celebrate with Heart, Not with Arms!”**, which aims to promote responsible behaviour and prevent the misuse of firearms during celebrations and festive events. As part of the campaign, informational and cooperative activities have been planned among licensed and authorised entities operating in the field of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, including manufacturers, brokers, and traders. These activities will seek to raise public awareness on the importance of complying with relevant laws.

### 4.2 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE

##### *Guiding questions:*

Were there any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of WAE? If yes, please provide details.

Where there any activities specifically targeting *young men*?

Were any specific awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on the dangers of *celebratory shootings* during the reporting period? If so, please provide details.

- During the reporting period, various activities were planned and implemented to raise awareness among the general population, including both women and men, about the risks associated with the misuse of firearms.

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs, in cooperation with the police and with the support of international partners, planned and initiated the implementation of the awareness campaign “*Celebrate with Heart, Not with Arms!*”, which aims to reduce the use and misuse of firearms and promote a culture of celebration without weapons.
- Furthermore, the Ministry has planned, in cooperation with the inter-institutional group, the Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs), and religious communities, to organise thematic meetings, produce informational publications, and develop visual materials to be disseminated through media and digital platforms throughout 2025. These activities form part of ongoing efforts to strengthen public and community safety, reduce incidents related to the unauthorised use of firearms, and enhance civic responsibility and cooperation with law enforcement authorities in preventing this negative social phenomenon.
- Various activities have been implemented (lectures in different schools, youth camps with students, and distribution of informational materials), primarily on topics of an educational nature, including one specifically addressing the misuse of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
- Several activities were planned and implemented during the reporting period to raise awareness about the risks of celebratory shootings.
  - An awareness campaign was organised in cooperation with the Kosovo Police and local schools, during which awareness materials were distributed and lectures were held with students and parents.
  - Informative meetings were held with the Municipal Community Safety Councils to promote awareness messages and cooperation.
  - Preventive messages and short videos calling for the avoidance of firearm use during celebrations were published through the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ social media platforms.

#### 4.3 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

*Guiding question:*

Were there any specific awareness-raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence? If so, please provide details.

- Yes. In several municipalities, activities have been carried out focusing on the inclusion of women and youth in community safety discussions, with particular emphasis on preventing the use of firearms in domestic conflicts and situations of gender-based violence.

#### 4.4 Partnership with the media

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities planned or conducted to increase the partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms enabled violence?

No relevant activities have been conducted during the reporting period.

#### 4.5 Public education on FAE legal framework

*Guiding question:*

Were any public education activities or campaigns planned or organized on *newly adopted legal framework* on FAE.

No relevant activities have been conducted during the reporting period.

#### 4.6 Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was any legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period? If yes, please describe the activities and results.

No legalisation or voluntary surrender campaign took place during the reporting period.

#### 4.7 Deactivation of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period? If yes, please describe any results. If not, please describe any challenges.

No deactivation of firearms took place during the reporting period.

#### 4.8 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

Several challenges and needs have been identified that have impacted the planning and implementation of the awareness-raising campaign *“Celebrate with Heart, Not with Arms!”* in the first half of 2025.

Challenges:

- Lack of dedicated funding for awareness-raising activities at the local level, in order to ensure coverage across all municipalities;
- Lack of inter-institutional coordination, particularly with the judiciary;
- Limited coordination and cooperation with local institutions such as Municipal Directorates of Education, religious communities, and NGOs in conveying preventive messages and appeals directly to communities;
- Lack of training for municipal officials, community police officers, members of the Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs), and representatives of local communities on public communication.

Needs:

- Increased financial and technical support from all institutions and partners to enable the implementation of awareness campaign activities across the jurisdiction;
- Strengthening institutional capacities for the organisation and implementation of awareness campaigns;
- Greater involvement of central and local media outlets in disseminating preventive messages;
- Particular attention to be given to organising awareness campaigns on pyrotechnic devices and fireworks;
- Inclusion and support of local institutions and community safety forums (MCSCs) in awareness campaign activities to ensure sustainable impact;
- Development of an educational curriculum for students in primary and secondary schools addressing the consequences of firearm use and pyrotechnic devices;
- Organisation of youth camps with upper secondary school students to raise awareness about the consequences of firearm misuse.
- We have continuously requested and are currently receiving support from SEESAC and other partners.

## misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE

### Guiding question:

Were there any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (including producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, collectors, postal operators, etc) on the dangers of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risk of diversion of arms ammunition, and explosives? If yes, please provide details.

Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, MOFTER): No specific activities were planned, apart from contacts made at the request of manufacturers and during the regular conduct of inspection supervision.

Tuzla Canton Mol: Yes. Through the establishment of commissions and the conduct of inspection supervision over the operation of retail outlets selling weapons and ammunition, as well as private security agencies and hunting associations.

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Central Bosnia Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, Canton Sarajevo Mol, Canton 10 Mol reported no activities.

Republika Srpska Mol, Posavina Canton Mol, and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol provided no information.

## 4.2 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE

### Guiding questions:

Were there any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of WAE? If yes, please provide details.

Where there any activities specifically targeting *young men*?

Were any specific awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on the dangers of *celebratory shootings* during the reporting period? If so, please provide details.

Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):

- Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board: **The Association** “Network of Women in the Police”, in **cooperation with the** Mol of Zenica-Doboj Canton, the Mol of Canton 10, the Mol of the Una-Sana Canton, and the Mol of the West Herzegovina Canton, conducted a mini campaign across several cities under the slogan “Disarm Violence” (**RAZORUŽAJ NASILJE**). The campaign aimed to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the possession of SALW, particularly in the context of criminal offences involving gender-based violence.

Republika Srpska Mol

- In line with the Plan of Measures and Activities for the Prevention of Peer Violence and Juvenile Delinquency (2023–2027), the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska implemented a preventive campaign titled “Weapons Don’t Protect – Weapons Kill” from 26 May to 6 June 2025. The campaign aimed to further inform children, parents, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders about the dangers posed by firearms and explosive remnants of war, while also raising awareness among the general population who legally possess weapons of their obligation to store and handle them in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition. Additionally, it sought to encourage responsible behaviour in cases where discarded explosive ordnance is discovered.
- Representatives of the Ministry, together with teachers from primary and secondary schools, organised lectures to educate students on the risks and harmful consequences that firearms and explosive devices can cause. The target group included seventh- and eighth-grade primary school students and first- and second-year secondary school students. For the purpose of the campaign’s implementation, 5,000 leaflets were produced and distributed across schools as promotional material.

Brcko District Police

- No activities targeting general population or addressing celebratory shootings have been implemented.
- 385 students from the ninth grades of primary schools and the first and second grades of secondary schools watched the short feature film “The Game”, which addresses the dangers of firearms. The link to the film on the YouTube channel was published on the website of the Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Posavina Canton Mol

- Awareness-raising activities included displaying posters on safe handling of firearms.

#### Tuzla Canton Mol

- Awareness-raising activities targeting general population have been conducted during the training of applicants for obtaining authorisation to acquire firearms, as part of fulfilling the specific conditions prescribed by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, awareness-raising activities.
- No activities have targeted young men.
- Awareness-raising activities on celebratory shootings were conducted by the community police in private celebrations or public gatherings (such as weddings, house-roofing celebrations, etc.) where the traditional use of firearms for celebratory purposes is expected.

#### Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- The campaign “Disarm Violence” aimed to raise public awareness about the risks associated with the illegal possession of small arms and light weapons, particularly in the context of crimes with a focus on gender-based violence.
- Yes, as part of the project “Community Policing”, workshops and educational sessions are being held in primary and secondary schools within the jurisdiction of the Police Administration of the Mol Zenica-Doboj Canton on the topic of the dangers and consequences that may arise from the use of firearms and similar threats.
- Awareness-raising activities on celebratory shootings were implemented during the New Year holidays through various public statements and media appearances on television and radio programs.

#### Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- Activities aimed at raising awareness among the general population – both women and men – about the dangers of misuse, illegal possession, and illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition, and explosives were carried out through regular community policing activities, planned on a monthly or annual basis, informing the population about the risks related to SALW.
- In addition, through educational programs in schools and other educational institutions, students were informed about the dangers associated with SALW.
- The Mol of Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde implemented the campaign “Celebration Without Weapons” in cooperation with schools and the media.

#### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- During the reporting period, preventive activities were implemented through community policing, and additional measures are planned up to 2030 to reduce risks and strengthen public cooperation with the competent institutions.
- The Mol of Central Bosnia Canton continuously works to raise public awareness about the dangers of celebratory gunfire, aiming to reduce injuries, material damage, and the risks associated with the unlawful handling of firearms. The activities target all individuals, with particular focus on young people, firearm owners, and individuals participating in public gatherings and celebrations.
- Local radio and TV channels, social media, and online portals were used to inform the general population about the risks of celebratory shooting. The messages included information on legal consequences, safety measures, and advice for responsible behaviour.
- No specific activities have targeted young men took place during the reporting period.

#### Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol

- No campaigns were conducted during the reporting period; however, through daily interactions, as circumstances and needs arise, attention is drawn to the dangers of the unauthorized use of firearms, as well as to raise awareness about firearms among the general population.

- No specific activities have targeted young men.
- During the Christmas and New Year holidays, the campaign “Peaceful Holidays” was implemented to address celebratory shootings.

West Herzegovina Mol: No activities targeting general population and addressing celebratory shootings were implemented. Educational sessions were held in primary and secondary schools.

Sarajevo Canton Mol: The screening of two movies, “The Game” and “Weapons Do Not Protect”, took place during the reporting period, accompanied by an educational workshop for second-year high school students.

Posavina Canton Mol and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol provided no information on awareness-raising activities targeting young men.

Posavina Canton Mol and Republika Srpska provided no information on celebratory shooting activities. Una-Sana Canton and Canton 10 reported no awareness-raising activities.

#### 4.3 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

##### *Guiding question:*

Were there any specific awareness-raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence? If so, please provide details.

##### Republika Srpska Mol

- Representatives of the Mol participated in four working meetings and workshops organised by SEESAC within the framework of the project “Support for the Improvement of the Fight Against the Illicit Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans”, specifically focused on the development of a tool for gender-sensitive firearm licensing.
- The Mol also prepared and published a manual consolidating analytical indicators of the Ministry for the period 2021–2023, along with an overview of the legal framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska in the field of preventing and combating firearms misuse, as well as interview techniques and guidelines for providing urgent medical assistance to victims of gender-based violence involving firearms. The manual represents a significant step in strengthening institutional capacities for the prevention and response to this form of violence.

##### Tuzla Canton Mol

- Yes. Continuous field activities are being carried out, with particular attention given to families in which disrupted family relations have been identified.

##### Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol

- Yes, through the “Disarm Violence” campaign, the focus was placed on femicide and the misuse of firearms.

##### Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior

- Activities aimed at raising public awareness – among both women and men – about the dangers of firearms misuse, unauthorised possession, and illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition, and explosives were carried out as part of regular community policing activities, through monthly and annual planning, informing the public about the risks associated with SALW. Additionally, through educational programmes in schools and other educational institutions, students were informed about the dangers related to small arms and light weapons.

##### Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- Awareness-raising activities during the reporting period focused on prevention, informing victims and the public, and strengthening the capacities of police officers. Joint workshops and public discussions were organised to inform women about the risks of firearms in domestic violence, while NGO partners provided education on recognising dangerous situations and on available reporting mechanisms.
- Internal training sessions and seminars were held for police officers on risk identification, as well as on the application of legal measures and procedures in cases of violence involving firearms.
- Recognising this need, the Ministry introduced a provision in the amendments to the Law on the

Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition of Central Bosnia Canton concerning the seizure of firearms in reported cases of domestic violence, applicable in both criminal and administrative proceedings.

Canton 10 Mol

- On 24–25 April 2025, female police officers of the Canton 10 Mol, members of the association “**Network of Policewomen**”, implemented a mini-campaign titled “**Disarm Violence**”. With support from UNDP, the campaign aimed at raising public awareness about the risks associated with the possession of SALW in the context of criminal offences, particularly domestic and gender-based violence. The campaign was implemented through the following activities:
  - Setting up an information stand in a high-traffic location (the main town square) within the jurisdiction of the Livno Police Station, where female police officers, together with their colleagues, distributed leaflets and promotional materials, informed the general population about their content, and provided brief instructions on how to report illegal firearms;
  - Distributing leaflets and promotional materials during traffic control activities across the jurisdictions of all six police stations;
  - Posting campaign posters in visible locations within police stations.

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, and Sarajevo Canton Mol reported to have not conducted any activities in this area.

Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, Posavina Canton Mol, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol provided no information.

#### 4.4 Partnership with the media

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities planned or conducted to increase the partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms enabled violence?

Federal level (SIPA)

- Within its mandate, the Agency regularly conducts activities aimed at raising awareness about the misuse of firearms. To improve dissemination of relevant information to the general public, trainings have been planned aimed at improving crisis communication in relation to incidents and activities involving SALW. The focus will be on establishing a crisis communication team, as well as on the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of crisis management plans.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- Activities aimed at strengthening partnerships with the media and raising their awareness of the importance of accurate and responsible reporting on firearm misuse and firearm-related violence were carried out in cooperation with the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton **Goražde Radio-Television (RTV BPK Goražde)**.

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- Activities have focused on strengthening professional and timely public communication, reducing popularity of firearms possession, and raising public awareness. Successful cooperation with the media has been achieved in the dissemination of campaigns against celebratory shooting and the illegal use of firearms.

Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, Sarajevo Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol reported to have not conducted any relevant activities.

Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, Republika Srpska Mol, Una-Sana Canton Mol, and Posavina Canton Mol provided no information.

#### 4.5 Public education on FAE legal framework

*Guiding question:*

Were any public education activities or campaigns planned or organized on *newly adopted*

*legal framework on FAE.*

Tuzla Canton Mol:

- Yes. Following the adoption and entry into force of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition, two public notices were published on the official website. The notices invited all firearm owners to verify whether the amendments introduced by the new Law applied to them and, where required, to replace their firearm licences in accordance with the new provisions. Additionally, through direct engagement with the media, including appearances in thematic TV programmes (related to the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition) on RTV 7, BHT, and RTV TK, the provisions of the new Law were explained in detail.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- Activities and campaigns are planned to inform the public about the new legal framework concerning firearms, ammunition, and explosives, following the adoption of the new legislation, which is currently being drafted and submitted for approval.

Central Bosnia Canton Mol

- Public call for the replacement of firearm licences and the updating of records.

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol: These activities could not be implemented, as the new legal framework, i.e. the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, is still in the drafting stage.

West-Herzegovina Canton Mol: Yes, through local media and leaflets.

Brcko District Police, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Sarajevo Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol reported to not have conducted any relevant activities.

Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board, Republika Srpska Mol, Una-Sana Canton Mol, and Posavina Canton Mol provided no information.

#### 4.6 Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was any legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period? If yes, please describe the activities and results.

Federal level (SIPA): In accordance with its mandate, the Agency does not run campaigns to legalise firearms. In cases of voluntary surrender of firearms, the competent institutions are notified. Following the required procedures, the firearms are sent for destruction.

Brcko District Police

- No campaign was implemented; during the reporting period 10 firearms were voluntarily surrendered.

Una-Sana Canton Mol

- Amnesty and the legalisation of weapons are regulated by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition. Under that Law, the deadline for legalisation was 30 June 2023. Voluntary surrender of weapons is also regulated by the same Law and is carried out at the police stations of the Police Administration.

Posavina Canton Mol

- Yes, since legalisation is prescribed by law, a public call for legalisation was published on the official website of the Government of the Posavina Canton.

Tuzla Canton Mol

- Yes. Article 80 of the new Law on Weapons and Ammunition regulates the “Seizures and Voluntary Surrender of Category A Weapons”, while Article 81 specifically addresses “Amnesty and Legalisation of Weapons”. Furthermore, the Rulebook on Measures and Actions Undertaken by the Police Administration in Implementing the Amnesty for the Illegal Possession of Weapons and in Relation to the Legalisation of Weapons was adopted, thereby establishing the conditions for practical implementation. During the reporting period, and particularly through media campaigns and community policing activities, efforts and public calls were made to encourage the general population to voluntarily surrender illegally possessed firearms or to initiate the legalisation process.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- As part of the “Choose Life Without Weapons” campaign, individuals were given the opportunity to anonymously surrender firearms and ammunition.

West-Herzegovina Canton Mol

- Operation “Harvest” is currently under way – an anonymous collection initiative for weapons and explosive ordnance, offering immunity from sanctions.

Sarajevo Canton Mol

- Two firearms were voluntarily surrendered.

Canton 10

- The Law on Weapons and Ammunition of Canton 10 provides for the legalisation of Category B weapons and an amnesty for the voluntary surrender of Category A weapons. As a result, the following items were voluntarily surrendered: 2 submachine guns, 1 improvised automatic rifle, 2 M48 rifles, 1 rifle of unknown make, 2 hunting rifles, 1 semi-automatic pistol, 1 pistol, 2 magazines for automatic rifles, 2 pistol magazines, 8 hand grenades and 2,384 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Central Bosnia Canton Mol, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol reported to not have conducted any relevant activities.

Republika Srpska Mol provided no information.

#### 4.7 Deactivation of firearms

##### *Guiding question:*

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period? If yes, please describe any results. If not, please describe any challenges.

Federal level (SIPA): A cooperation has been established with the Banc National d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne (EU Proof House), France, to provide advice, assessments and certified training on the correct application of SALW deactivation within police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Republika Srpska Mol

- Deactivation of weapons is most commonly carried out to register inherited weapons, which are entered in official records as trophies or family mementoes.

Brcko District Police

- No. However, during the reporting period six legally owned firearms by civilians were deactivated.

Tuzla Canton Mol

- Deactivation as a method of reducing the unauthorised possession of firearms was not applied during the reporting period, as the Law on Weapons and Ammunition – which fully aligns the area of deactivation with EU Directives – was adopted. During the reporting period, with the active support of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, activities were carried out to equip and establish the Centre for the Verification of Deactivated Firearms, in order to ensure that the deactivation and verification processes can be implemented in accordance with the Law.

Canton 10 Mol

- One pistol was permanently deactivated. The certificate of permanent deactivation was issued by ARMY SHOP d.o.o. Banja Luka, which carried out the deactivation in accordance with the Decision/Authorisation for the Repair and Modification of Weapons No. 10-06/2-210-133/16 of 23 February 2024, issued by the Mol of the Republika Srpska, Banja Luka Police Administration.

Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Central Bosnia Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, West-Herzegovina Canton Mol, and Sarajevo Canton Mol reported to not have conducted any firearm deactivation.

Una-Sana Canton Mol, Posavina Canton Mol, and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol provided no information.

#### 4.8 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

Canton 10 Mol: The limited number of authorised legal entities for weapon deactivation, as well as the lack of verification capacities for deactivated firearms, has resulted in an overall low number of deactivations.

## SKOPJE

### 4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the dangers of misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE

*Guiding question:*

Were there any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (including producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, collectors, postal operators, etc) on the dangers of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risk of diversion of arms ammunition, and explosives? If yes, please provide details.

- The Mol maintains continuous communication with legal entities engaged in the trade of weapons, as well as with private security companies providing services in physical security, technical protection, and in-house security. Within certain regional sectors of the Ministry of Interior, activities have been carried out in local and urban communities, commercial and hospitality establishments, including meetings with owners and managers of hospitality venues. These activities placed particular emphasis on the use or discharge of firearms and the use of pyrotechnic devices outside the legal framework, as well as on the legal obligation to promptly report to the police any disturbances of public order or other prohibited acts and behaviours by individuals.

### 4.2 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of WAE? If yes, please provide details.

Where there any activities specifically targeting *young men*?

Were any specific awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on the dangers of *celebratory shootings* during the reporting period? If so, please provide details.

- In the area under the jurisdiction of the Skopje Police Department (SVR Skopje), a large number of field activities were carried out. Specifically, a preventive and educational activity was implemented in accordance with the established Operational Action “**Pyrotechnics**” across several police stations within the sector, including at Philip II Square and in front of major shopping centres in Skopje.
- Additionally, the Prevention Unit of SVR Skopje conducted numerous activities under the same Operational Action “**Pyrotechnics**”, which was launched in December 2024, ahead of the upcoming holidays, when the sale and use of pyrotechnic devices tend to increase. Preventive and educational lectures were organised in many primary and secondary schools, in coordination with uniformed police officers and medical staff from the Clinic for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Activities under this operational action took place during winter holidays in December 2024 and into 2025.
- Through the police stations and Prevention Units, and in line with their competences under the

Law on Police and the Law on Internal Affairs, the Sectors for Internal Affairs implemented preventive activities aimed at detecting and preventing the use of firearms and pyrotechnic devices. Preventive campaigns such as “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Weapons”, “Pyrotechnics Are Not Toys”, and “Stop the Use of Pyrotechnic Devices” were carried out, as is done regularly every year.

- Activities were also conducted to prevent the misuse of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic and explosive devices through direct contact with individuals in gathering places frequented by young people, such as schools and schoolyards, where educational leaflets were distributed containing information on legal penalties and consequences. All preventive activities aimed to raise awareness among the general population, especially young people of both sexes, about the dangers of pyrotechnic use during holidays, to inform them about possible health risks, and to familiarise them with the legal provisions governing the acquisition and use of such devices.
- Preventive departments within the Sectors for Internal Affairs further conducted lectures for students in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades on the harmful effects and potential consequences of using pyrotechnic devices. Through these presentations, students learned that the use of firecrackers can cause severe bodily injuries, permanent disability, and significant material damage. They were also informed that the unauthorised use of pyrotechnic devices in public places is punishable by law and were provided with educational leaflets.
- As part of the activities conducted within the framework of these campaign, young men were also targeted.
- As part of the campaign “Safe Summer – Celebrate with Heart, Not with Weapons”, meetings were held with local residents, young people, and students to highlight the dangers of the unauthorised use of pyrotechnic devices, dispersive materials, rockets, fireworks, and firearms during family gatherings, weddings, and other celebrations, as well as the legal penalties for such misuse. Leaflets containing advice and appeals to refrain from discharging firearms or organising unauthorised fireworks during weddings and other family celebrations were distributed to the general population. Participants were informed that unauthorised shooting at family events is punishable under the Law on Public Order and Peace and the Criminal Code. In parts of the Skopje Police Department area, a preventive activity was also implemented to ensure safe graduation and prom celebrations.

#### 4.3 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

*Guiding question:*

Were there any specific awareness-raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence? If so, please provide details.

- The Sector for Internal Affairs provided information on preventive activities carried out to raise awareness about the misuse of firearms in cases of violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. These activities focused on themes such as: “You have the right to help, support and protection from violence (a life without violence)” and “Violence is universal – don’t stay silent! Seek help! Asking for help is not a shame”. The activities were implemented in cooperation with local prevention councils for combating violence against women and children, based on an appropriately prepared programme and in collaboration with professionals from the education sector, psychologists, and pedagogues.
- During the implementation of these preventive activities, educational leaflets were also distributed.

#### 4.4 Partnership with the media

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities planned or conducted to increase the partnership with the media and their

awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms enabled violence?

- During the reporting period, no specific activities with the media were organised in this area of the Ministry's work. **This does not imply that such cooperation will not take place in the future.** On the contrary, the Ministry remains committed to maintaining full openness and strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders to enhance public safety standards, including those related to small arms and light weapons.
- For many years, the MoI has actively participated in numerous institutional initiatives and projects in the field of SALW regulation and the prevention of illicit trafficking in SALW at the local, regional, and international levels. Over the past decade and a half, extensive cooperation has also been established with international institutions and associations, domestic non-governmental organisations, and through public awareness campaigns aimed at educating the general population about the legal norms governing the acquisition and possession of small arms and light weapons, as well as their misuse and related issues.

#### 4.5 Public education on FAE legal framework

*Guiding question:*

Were any public education activities or campaigns planned or organized on *newly adopted legal framework* on FAE.

- As part of the process of drafting legislation in the field of weapons and explosives, meetings of the working groups were held with relevant stakeholders – legal entities, professional associations, and experts, including university professors – during which the draft laws were presented, and participants provided comments, observations, and suggestions. Following the adoption of the new legislation, activities and campaigns are planned to educate the wider public about the new legal provisions and restrictions.

#### 4.6 Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was any legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period? If yes, please describe the activities and results.

- No legalization or voluntary surrender campaigns were conducted during the reporting period. They are planned to be implemented following the adoption of the new Law on Weapons, which will provide the legal basis for voluntary surrender and legalisation of weapons, with a one-year timeframe for its implementation under clearly defined conditions and procedures.

#### 4.7 Deactivation of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period? If yes, please describe any results. If not, please describe any challenges.

- The procedure for marking deactivated weapons and issuing Certificates of Deactivation has not yet commenced. However, dedicated activities are under way with OSCE support, including preparations to adapt suitable premises where the marking machine will be installed.
- In April 2025, the MoI adopted an internal Instruction for the verification, marking, and registration of deactivated weapons and for issuing deactivation certificates, developed within the ongoing OSCE project.
- In the coming period, and in cooperation with France, MoI officials and marking specialists will be certified to verify and issue certificates for deactivated weapons.

#### 4.8 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- The Prevention Unit of the Skopje Police Department (SVR Skopje), in coordination with uniformed police officers from PSON/PO, is planning to implement a campaign titled “Fun for a Moment, Fatal for a Lifetime.” The aim of the campaign is to inform multiple target groups, thereby raising safety awareness and familiarising the public with legal sanctions. Support is needed for the preparation of educational and video materials, as well as for securing other necessary resources for its implementation.
- Under the upcoming Strategy on SALW Control, campaigns are planned to raise awareness about the misuse of firearms and the unauthorised use of pyrotechnic devices, as well as campaigns promoting the voluntary surrender and legalisation of weapons, the new legal framework, and awareness about firearms deactivation. Support will be needed for these activities, and it will be officially requested once the necessary conditions are in place.
- In cooperation with the OSCE, a campaign plan is currently being developed, which is scheduled to be implemented at the beginning of 2026.

## TIRANA

#### 4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the dangers of misuse and illicit proliferation of WAE

*Guiding question:*

Were there any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (including producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, collectors, postal operators, etc) on the dangers of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risk of diversion of arms ammunition, and explosives? If yes, please provide details.

- During the reporting period, the Police held regular meetings with licensed private entities to monitor their activities and raise awareness about the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of weapons, ammunition, and explosives (WAE).
- During this period, no cases of misuse or illicit proliferation of WAE were identified among these entities.

#### 4.2 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of WAE

*Guiding questions:*

Were there any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of WAE? If yes, please provide details.

Where there any activities specifically targeting *young men*?

Were any specific awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on the dangers of *celebratory shootings* during the reporting period? If so, please provide details.

- Within the framework of the Strategy for SALW and Explosive Control 2025–2030 and the accompanying Action Plan 2025–2028, a number of awareness-raising activities have been foreseen. These include initiatives addressing the illegal possession and use of SALW, as well as dedicated funding for the integration of firearm safety awareness into pre-university education curricula.

- Schools planned and organized meetings among students, teachers, and police representatives, as well as between parents and police representatives aimed at raising awareness and preventing the misuse of firearms among students. These activities also envisage awareness-raising sessions on the legal consequences of firearm possession and use, particularly in youth-related conflicts, the establishment of safety corners in schools, and the dissemination of informational materials within the education system to contribute to reducing violence among youth in pre-university institutions
- The Community Police continued to monitor areas identified as high-risk, focusing their activities primarily on younger age groups. Particular attention was given to individuals who had applied for authorisation to purchase and possess firearms.
- The Local Police also held frequent meetings with community members to raise awareness about the risks associated with the use of firearms.
- As part of these activities, regular meetings were held with youth, mainly high school students within the jurisdiction of the Local Police Directorates. A total of 27 meetings were conducted during the reporting period.
- In March and May 2025, activities took place in two secondary schools in Gjirokastrë. The main objective of these activities is to increase awareness and prevent social problems among youth, while fostering closer cooperation between the police and the school community.
- Part of these activities was informing the general population regarding the consequences of celebratory shootings during family or public events. However, no dedicated activities were conducted dedicated to preventing celebratory shootings, apart from addressing this phenomenon as part of broader awareness-raising campaigns on firearm use, since there have been no cases of celebratory shootings.

#### 4.3 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

*Guiding question:*

Were there any specific awareness-raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence? If so, please provide details.

- As part of the project “Assistance to the Authorities of Albania in Reducing the Risk of Proliferation and Misuse of SALW”, implemented by the OSCE Presence in Albania, the manual “Beyond the Headlines: A Manual for Journalists Reporting on Security, Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Gender-Based Violence in Albania” was successfully finalized. The electronic version of the manual is available on the official website of the OSCE.
- On 3 June 2025, the OSCE Presence in Albania organised a dedicated training for 10 journalists (4 women and 6 men) from various media outlets in Albania. The aim of the training was to improve the quality of reporting on incidents related to SALW, with a particular emphasis on cases of gender-based violence. The training enabled the participants to share their experiences, expectations, and challenges, and discuss the manual developed as part of the project. The training brought together local and international experts in gender-based violence, representatives of civil society, regional partners such as SEESAC, and international media experts who shared their experience regarding the regulatory framework, best practices, and the work conducted so far in this area.

#### 4.4 Partnership with the media

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities planned or conducted to increase the partnership with the media and their awareness of the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms enabled violence?

- A strong and sustainable relationship with the media, as important partners in combating the risks and misuse of SALW, has been established through the implementation of the aforementioned OSCE project.
- As part of the project “Assistance to the Authorities of Albania in Reducing the Risk of Proliferation and Misuse of SALW”, implemented by the OSCE Presence in Albania, the manual “Beyond the Headlines: A Manual for Journalists Reporting on Security, Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Gender-Based Violence in Albania” was successfully finalized. The electronic version of the manual is available on the official website of the OSCE.
- On 3 June 2025, the OSCE Presence in Albania organised a dedicated training for 10 journalists (4 women and 6 men) from various media outlets in Albania. The aim of the training was to improve the quality of reporting on incidents related to SALW, with a particular emphasis on cases of gender-based violence. The training enabled the participants to share their experiences, expectations, and challenges, and discuss the manual developed as part of the project. The training brought together local and international experts in gender-based violence, representatives of civil society, regional partners such as SEESAC, and international media experts who shared their experience regarding the regulatory framework, best practices, and the work conducted so far in this area.

#### 4.5 Public education on FAE legal framework

*Guiding question:*

Were any public education activities or campaigns planned or organized on *newly adopted legal framework* on FAE.

- No activities or information campaigns dedicated to the new legal framework on WAE were conducted during the reporting period.

#### 4.6 Legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was any legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period? If yes, please describe the activities and results.

- There is no legal framework in Albania regulating the voluntary surrender of firearms. Thus, no awareness-raising activities or campaigns were conducted in this area.

#### 4.7 Deactivation of firearms

*Guiding question:*

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period? If yes, please describe any results. If not, please describe any challenges.

- The deactivation process of firearms has not started yet.
- With funding from the OSCE as part of the project on SALW, the following activities were carried out:
  - In June 2025, a study visit was organized to the SALW Deactivation Centre in Saint-Étienne, France.
  - The implementation of the project for the establishment of the SALW Deactivation Centre at the Material and Technical Supply Centre (QFMT) has commenced.

#### 4.8 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?



No challenges or needs for support have been reported.

## ROADMAP GOAL 5

By 2030, substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives (KPIs 11 and 12)

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Systematically decrease surplus stockpile of SALW, ammunition and explosives through destruction in an environmentally benign manner and through other means.</li> <li>2. Regular and secure destruction of confiscated and collected SALW, ammunition and explosives or disposed of in another transparent manner.</li> <li>3. Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition.</li> <li>4. Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.</li> <li>5. Strengthen the capacities of institutions for monitoring, oversight and evaluation of the WAE stocks of legal entities and individuals.</li> </ol>
Progress information on Goal 5 Overall Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE;</li> <li>2. Disposal of WAE surplus through other means;</li> <li>3. Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities;</li> <li>4. Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals;</li> <li>5. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.</li> </ol>

## BELGRADE

### 5.1 Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE

#### *Guiding question:*

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE took place during the reporting period? If yes, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

Did any destruction of confiscated and collected WAE took place during the reporting period? If so, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

- During the reporting period, SALW ammunition that was surplus or had exceeded its storage period (instability of the propellant having been established) was destroyed at TRZ Kragujevac. In total, 11,120 various hand grenades, 860 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, 60 rounds of 7.9 mm ammunition, 412 rounds of 12.7 mm ammunition, and 53 rounds of 14.5 mm ammunition were destroyed.
- The destruction process was carried out using the prescribed technology (by activating an additional explosive charge or by heating in a special closed vessel – an ammunition incineration furnace) in a safe manner, at a designated site that meets all requirements for this activity.
- During the reporting period, no destruction of confiscated explosives or mine-explosive devices was carried out.

### 5.2 Disposal of WAE surplus through other means

*Guiding question:*

Was there any weapons, ammunition and explosives surplus disposed through other means? If so, please specify the means (sales, training exercises, donations, other).

No surplus weapons, ammunition, or explosives were disposed through other means during the reporting period.

### 5.3 Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosive storage facilities implemented in the reported period?

- Under the project implemented by the MoI in cooperation with UNDP, “Strengthening the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the Area of Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, Phase 3”, a donation was received in February 2025 for police directorates/stations consisting of 140 safes for the secure storage and safekeeping of weapons, 20 ammunition storage containers, and 5 bullet traps.
- During the reporting period, a meeting was held with representatives of the U.S. Embassy and the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF) regarding financial support to the MoI for the adaptation and equipping of evidence rooms in police directorates/stations, as a continuation of the support that the U.S. has been providing to the MoI in the area of physical security and stockpile management of SALW.
- During the reporting period, the MoD undertook measures to secure and control facilities where weapons, ammunition, and explosives are stored, in accordance with the regulations governing these matters in the Armed Forces.
- In February 2025, with a view to improving the storage of ammunition and explosives, SEESAC submitted two protocols developed within the project, namely: the Emergency Protocol for the Safe Storage of Ammunition and Explosives and the Emergency Protocol for the Safe Transport of Small Quantities of Surrendered or Returned Ammunition and Explosives for Final Destruction. These protocols were forwarded to the competent organisational units of the MoI in order to be taken into account in the drafting of regulations in these areas.

### 5.4 Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals

*Guiding question:*

Were there any inspections conducted during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers) and individuals? If yes, please provide details.

- The MoI carried out 63 inspections of legal entities and entrepreneurs registered for training in handling firearms, repairing and modifying weapons, and trading in weapons, essential weapon parts and ammunition, as well as other legal entities and entrepreneurs which, in line with their activities, procure and hold weapons (hunting and shooting associations and organisations). Particular attention was given to the safe storage and safekeeping of weapons and ammunition, as well as the proper maintenance of prescribed records.
- The MoI conducted 359 inspections in the field of private security, during which 387 misdemeanours under the Law on Private Security were identified, while no supervision was carried out under the Law on Detective Activity.
- The Ministry also exercised continuous supervision in accordance with the Law on the Trade in Explosive Substances and the Law on Explosive Substances, Flammable Liquids and Gases. Supervision was performed over all legal entities holding an authorisation for the production and/or trade of explosive substances. On a monthly basis, inspections were carried out of production and storage facilities for explosive substances. During the reporting period, 338 authorisations were

issued for the procurement of explosive substances, and oversight of their use was conducted.

- On the basis of the Law on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the Law on the Production and Trade of Arms and Military Equipment, the Law on the Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment, and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, a total of 2,690 authorisations were issued in the first half of 2025 for the transport and transit of explosive substances for civilian use and pyrotechnic articles, hunting and sporting weapons and ammunition, arms and military equipment, and dual-use goods. In relation to this, no improvements in administrative capacities were recorded during the reporting period.
- For storage facilities, shooting ranges and training centres under the competence of the MoD, regular and ad hoc inspections are carried out of the condition of arms and military equipment that are stored, in use in military facilities, or in use during the presence of units at shooting ranges or training grounds during the conduct of training. Internal controls within the Armed Forces are implemented at all levels, within prescribed timeframes, through regular and ad-hoc inspections.

## 5.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- Safe storage of SALW can be achieved by adapting a number of storage facilities (micro-locations – police stations) where weapons and ammunition from ongoing proceedings are stored, as well as weapons and ammunition that have become the property of Serbia (weapons awaiting collection), with the aim of ensuring adequate recording and safety of these weapons. In this regard, we express the need for further support from partners to improve these micro-locations. Such support may include the donation of security safes for the safe storage of weapons, as well as the exchange of good practices with parties that use software for digital inventory lists of the status of weapons in storage facilities within police premises, or a software that enables real-time exchange of records kept by legal entities engaged in arms trade with the MoI and of the status of weapons in those storage facilities or shops.
- The MoD has also previously highlighted the need to provide technical protection measures, namely: (1) construction of a security fence at TRZ Kragujevac (ammunition overhaul facility, for which a project exists but has not been implemented), and (2) installation of technical systems at storage facilities for weapons in Pančevo and Smederevska Palanka (for which project documentation must be prepared in order to create the conditions for implementation).
- The need for further improvements to evidence rooms has also been emphasized.

## PODGORICA

### 5.1 Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE

#### *Guiding question:*

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE took place during the reporting period? If yes, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

Did any destruction of confiscated and collected WAE took place during the reporting period? If so, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

- During the reporting period, the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence did not destroy surplus of WAE from the stockpile.
- No destruction of confiscated or voluntarily surrendered firearms or ammunition took place during

the reporting period.

- In the upcoming period, it is expected that a working body will be established to prepare the necessary documentation, dismantle weapons, and organise transportation to the destruction site for weapons confiscated in final criminal, misdemeanour and administrative proceedings, as well as for weapons and ammunition surrendered or found, including those returned during the “Respect Life – Return Your Weapon” campaign. Once these working bodies are formed, the implementation of the tasks and activities within their mandate will begin.

## 5.2 Disposal of WAE surplus through other means

### *Guiding question:*

Was there any weapons, ammunition and explosives surplus disposed through other means? If so, please specify the means (sales, training exercises, donations, other).

- During the technical inspection carried out by the expert team of the Department for Technical Maintenance of Lethal Equipment and the Destruction of Unexploded Ordnance, the Armed Forces of Montenegro identified items designated for destruction, in the total quantity of 13 tonnes. A proposal was made for these items to be destroyed within the framework of the ITF programme, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior.
- A response is pending regarding the availability of the necessary financial resources.

## 5.3 Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities

### *Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosive storage facilities implemented in the reported period?

- In cooperation with UNDP, a donation of two containers for the storage of explosives was secured during the reporting period.

## 5.4 Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals

### *Guiding question:*

Were there any inspections conducted during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers) and individuals? If yes, please provide details.

- The control and oversight of legal entities and sole proprietors involved in activities such as hunting, sports shooting, service provision, physical protection of individuals and properties, manufacturing, trade, repair and conversion, and transportation of weapons and ammunition were not carried out regularly.

## 5.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- Yes. In order to implement the destruction of weapons and ammunition voluntarily surrendered by the general population under the “Respect Life – Return Your Weapon” campaign, as well as weapons and ammunition transferred to the Ministry by the courts (confiscated on the basis of final criminal and misdemeanour proceedings), the need for support in carrying out these activities has been identified. This support is required in a manner consistent with the assistance provided during previous weapons-destruction processes.

- In addition, in order to ensure full conditions for the safe storage of lethal equipment in line with the NATO AASTP-1 Standard (Edition C) and to define the permitted quantities of explosive ordnance (EO) that may be stored in each facility, it is necessary to complete all planned infrastructure works at the storage sites.
- In this regard, the Armed Forces of Montenegro require financial support to carry out the infrastructure works foreseen in the Main Design for the “Brezovik” storage facility, including the installation of a hydrant network, perimeter security, video surveillance, external fencing, lighting, access roads, repair of blast walls, and other works defined in the project.
- It should be noted that the Main Design for the “Brezovik” storage facility was developed with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro (in January 2025), and the Mission has been informed about the financial support required by the Armed Forces of Montenegro for the implementation of the planned infrastructure works.
- Additionally, in July, the Ministry of Defence presented the infrastructure needs of the Armed Forces related to the storage capacities of the “Brezovik” military facility during a VTC meeting with representatives of the EEAS.
- The project was also presented to representatives of the NGO MAG, based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provides support in the field of Physical Security and Stockpile Management of conventional weapons and ammunition.
- Currently, no financial resources have yet been secured for the planned infrastructure works.

## PRISTINA

### 5.1 Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE

*Guiding question:*

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE took place during the reporting period? If yes, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

Did any destruction of confiscated and collected WAE took place during the reporting period? If so, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

- No destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE has taken place, as there are no surpluses.
- There was no destruction of confiscated WAE during the reporting period.

### 5.2 Disposal of WAE surplus through other means

*Guiding question:*

Was there any weapons, ammunition and explosives surplus disposed through other means? If so, please specify the means (sales, training exercises, donations, other).

- No weapons, ammunition, or explosives were disposed through other means during the reporting period.

### 5.3 Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosive storage facilities implemented in the reported period?

- No relevant activities were reported during the reporting period.

## 5.4 Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals

### *Guiding question:*

Were there any inspections conducted during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers) and individuals? If yes, please provide details.

- Approximately 40 inspections of relevant legal entities took place during the reporting period.

## 5.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- The legalisation and voluntary surrender processes remain a key challenge.

## SARAJEVO

### 5.1 Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE

#### *Guiding question:*

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE took place during the reporting period? If yes, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

Did any destruction of confiscated and collected WAE took place during the reporting period? If so, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

#### Federal level (Ministry of Defence, SIPA)

- MoD: No weapons from armed forces were destroyed. A total of 41.48 tonnes of MiMES (through demilitarisation, incineration, and detonation) were disposed of as of 30 June.
- SIPA: During the reporting period, the Agency, in cooperation with the Civil Protection Administration of the Republika Srpska, carried out activities related to the destruction of ammunition and explosive ordnance, during which four hand grenades were destroyed.

#### Republika Srpska Mol

- In June 2025, a list of weapons were submitted to UNDP to arrange the safe destruction of illegal weapons, planned for October 2025.

Republika Srpska Mol reported no information regarding the destruction of confiscated WAE.

#### Canton 10 Mol

- Team A of the Federal Civil Protection Administration regularly collects voluntarily surrendered and found explosive ordnance and destroys it at an approved site on Mount Golija (Korićina Pass) on the Livno–Glamoč road, and, if necessary, at the “Barbara” military training ground. The Ministry of Interior of Canton 10, in the period 1 January–30 June 2025, handed over to Team A the following items: 5 hand grenades, 1 explosive ordnance item, 3 magazines for an automatic rifle, 2,505 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 2 fuzes for an anti-tank mine.

#### Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol

- After the Police Commissioner approves a request for weapon destruction, they forward it to the Government of the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton. In cooperation with UNDP, the location for the destruction is determined.

Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, Central Bosnia Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol,

West-Herzegovina Canton MoI, Sarajevo Canton MoI, and Canton 10 reported no destruction of surplus stockpile or confiscated WAE.  
Posavina Canton MoI provided no information.

## 5.2 Disposal of WAE surplus through other means

### *Guiding question:*

Was there any weapons, ammunition and explosives surplus disposed through other means? If so, please specify the means (sales, training exercises, donations, other).

Federal level (SIPA):

- The Agency did not conduct disposal of surplus WAE through other means. However, in line with the annual training plan for police officers, regular firearms training sessions were conducted throughout the year.

Brčko District Police, Una-Sana Canton MoI, Tuzla Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, Central Bosnia Canton MoI, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI, West-Herzegovina Canton MoI, Sarajevo Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI reported no disposal of WAE through other means.  
Republika Srpska MoI, Posavina Canton MoI, and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI provided no information.

## 5.3 Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities

### *Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosive storage facilities implemented in the reported period?

Federal level (Ministry of Security, MoD)

- Ministry of Security: On 29 May 2025 in Široki Brijeg, the OSCE organised a practical advanced training for twenty (20) operators of intrusion detection systems (IDS) in SALW storage facilities.
- MoD: Reconstruction works are currently underway at the LSN “Teufik Buza” Visoko facility to enhance security standards, while infrastructure works at LSN “Rabić” Derventa are planned for the following year. In addition, roof repairs are being carried out at the LSM “Grabež” Bihać storage site for ammunition and explosive ordnance (MIMES).

Brčko District Police

- **No, the Brčko District Police storage facility meets all required security standards.**

Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI

- Storage facilities exist but have not yet been put into operation.

Canton 10 MoI

- Yes. One police officer and one senior associate – database administrator – participated in the OSCE training for officers responsible for overseeing the Intrusion Detection System (IDS) installed at the weapons storage facility.

Tuzla Canton MoI, Central Bosnia Canton MoI, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI, West-Herzegovina Canton MoI, and Sarajevo Canton MoI reported no activities to increase the safety and security of WAE storage facilities.

Republika Srpska MoI, Una-Sana Canton MoI, Posavina Canton MoI, and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI provided no information.

## 5.4 Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals

### *Guiding question:*

Were there any inspections conducted during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers) and individuals? If yes, please provide details.

#### Federal level (MOFTER, MoD)

- MOFTER: Inspection oversight of arms and military equipment manufacturers has been conducted regularly since 2005.
- MOD:
  - Yes. The MoD is responsible for quality control in the procurement of military assets. This is implemented through relevant provisions of procurement contracts and based on the Internal Instruction on Quality Control for Class V equipment.
  - Internal controls are carried out at the level of subordinate units in accordance with established orders and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
  - Inspections of weapon storage sites (LSN) and explosive ordnance storage locations (LSM) are conducted according to the annual Inspection Plan approved by the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH.

#### Republika Srpska MoI

- According to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, which regulates authorised gunsmiths, sales and trading facilities, shooting ranges, hunting grounds, and training organisations, the Ministry is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this law and conducts timely inspections of business entities and entrepreneurs through its designated inspection and control commissions.
- Additionally, inspection oversight of activities related to the protection of persons and property is prescribed by the Law on Private Security Agencies and Private Detective Activities and such inspections are carried out promptly by authorised officers of the Ministry of Interior.
- During the reporting period, the Ministry of Interior conducted nine regular inspections of private security and detective agencies. Furthermore, 31 control operations were implemented, during which 394 security personnel and 35 companies with internal security services were inspected.

#### Tuzla Canton MoI

- Yes. Regular inspections were carried out, which are mandatory at least once a year.

#### Central Bosnia Canton MoI

- The MoI of Central Bosnia Canton established a Commission with a permanent mandate to oversee all legal entities within the canton engaged in the trade and sale of firearms. The competent organisational units of the Ministry are responsible for issuing firearm carrying permits. In the current year, systematic inspections of business entities and relevant services related to the procurement, sale, and registration of firearms were initiated, covering, among others, two shooting ranges **operating within the canton's jurisdiction.**

#### West-Herzegovina Canton MoI

- Yes, through regular inspection supervision. Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton MoI, Sarajevo Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI reported no inspections conducted during the reporting period. Posavina Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton MoI provided no information.

## 5.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

No challenges or needs for support have been reported.

## SKOPJE

### 5.1 Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE

*Guiding question:*

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE took place during the reporting period? If yes, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

Did any destruction of confiscated and collected WAE took place during the reporting period? If so, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

- No destruction of surplus stockpile and confiscated WAE were reported during the reporting period.
- The Mol conducted an assessment of the storage facility for weapons and ammunition in Gjorche Petrov, which found that mine-explosive materials belonging to the Ministry posed a security risk and need to be destroyed. The Inter-Sectoral Commission for the Destruction of WAE will facilitate the process, while the armed forces will carry out the destruction through detonation at the Krivolak military training ground.
- In the first half of 2025, the Mol adopted relevant internal regulations regarding the destruction process of WAE, including:
  - SOPs for organising, collecting, recording, transporting, and destroying weapons and weapon parts;
  - SOPs for organising, recording, and transporting ammunition over 14.5 mm calibre, explosives, explosive devices, chemical and pyrotechnic materials designated for destruction;
  - SOPs for organising, collecting, recording, and transporting ammunition designated for destruction.

## 5.2 Disposal of WAE surplus through other means

*Guiding question:*

Was there any weapons, ammunition and explosives surplus disposed through other means? If so, please specify the means (sales, training exercises, donations, other).

- No weapons, ammunition, or explosives were disposed through other means during the reporting period.

## 5.3 Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosive storage facilities implemented in the reported period?

- Under the Bilateral Cooperation Plan with Austria, a Course on Testing the Chemical Stability of Propellants was held from 7 to 17 April 2025. The activity took place in the chemical laboratory premises of the Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski” and was attended by representatives of the Army and the Military Academy. The activity foresees the donation of equipment for testing the chemical stability of propellants, which will be used to enhance the monitoring system for the lifecycle of ammunition and mine-explosive devices in the Army.

## 5.4 Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals

*Guiding question:*

Were there any inspections conducted during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers) and individuals? If yes, please provide details.

- 32 inspections of relevant legal entities took place during the reporting period.

- Between 1 January and 30 June 2025, the Ministry of Interior, in accordance with the Law on Private Security, conducted 1,628 inspections across 1,157 facilities secured by 379 private security companies, as well as 35 legal entities providing in-house security. A total of 31 misdemeanours were identified, most commonly for failing to present a security officer's identification when required under Article 75(5) of the Law on Private Security. Misdemeanour orders were issued to 25 individuals and six legal entities.

## 5.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

### *Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

The following needs have been identified during the reporting period:

- Arrangement of a site for destruction by detonation at Krivolak Military Training Area.
- Procurement of a furnace for destruction by thermal incineration.
- Conversion of a facility into a chemical laboratory.

## TIRANA

### 5.1 Destruction of surplus, confiscated, and collected stockpile of WAE

#### *Guiding question:*

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of WAE took place during the reporting period? If yes, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

Did any destruction of confiscated and collected WAE took place during the reporting period? If so, please provide the number of WAE destroyed and describe how the destruction process was conducted?

- Stocks of WAE are concentrated at the Material and Technical Supply Centre of the Police. They have not been handed over to the MoD, as the latter does not have suitable storage capacities.
- No process for the destruction of surplus stockpiles of SALW and their ammunition took place during the reporting period.
- The destruction of weapons, ammunition, and explosive surpluses is conducted by cutting and transfer for scrap at the Military Mechanical Plant in Gramsh.
- The destruction of explosives is conducted through the burning method at the Explosives Plant in Elbasan.
- The stock of SALW and their ammunition has been collected and stored at the Material and Technical Supply Centre of the Police.
- MoD: There was no destruction of SALW, confiscated and handed over by the Ministry of Interior.
- General Directorate of Prisons: There was no destruction of confiscated SALW.

### 5.2 Disposal of WAE surplus through other means

#### *Guiding question:*

Was there any weapons, ammunition and explosives surplus disposed through other means? If so, please specify the means (sales, training exercises, donations, other).

- MoD: No activity has been conducted for the disposal of SALW through other means.
- General Directorate of Prisons: No activities have been conducted for the disposal of SALW through other means.

### 5.3 Safety and security of SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities

*Guiding question:*

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosive storage facilities implemented in the reported period?

- With funding from the U.S. Department of State, the project for the construction of the Central Transitional Warehouse for the collection of seized and confiscated SALW is in the development phase.
- Through Albania's own budget funds, SALW storage facilities have been reconstructed in the following locations:
  - Local Police Directorate of Berat;
  - Police Commissariat of Berat;
  - Police Station of Roskovec.
- The central warehouse of the General Directorate of Prisons has also been reconstructed to ensure proper storage conditions, enhance security measures, and improve alarm and monitoring systems.
- MoD: The MoD continued the project aimed at increasing security and reducing the risk of proliferation and diversion of WAE. During this period, the security parameters of the storage depots of the Armed Forces, where weapons and ammunition are stored and managed, were improved. In cooperation with the United States European Command (EUCOM), the reconstruction of two additional depots in the Miraka depot group has commenced, following the completion of the full reconstruction of three tunnel-type depots.

### 5.4 Inspections of relevant legal entities and individuals

*Guiding question:*

Were there any inspections conducted during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers) and individuals? If yes, please provide details.

- The local structures of the Police carried out inspections and monitoring of the activities of entities authorized to operate with firearms, as well as of their compliance with the regulations governing the storage, safekeeping, and transport.
- During the reporting period, 41 inspections were conducted by the relevant structures of the Local Police Directorates (LPDs) to ensure firearm safety among individuals authorized by the Police to possess firearms and hunting weapons. The results are as follows:
  - Administrative measures imposed by LPDs for legal violations: 0
  - Revoked authorizations for handguns at residence: 4
  - Revoked hunting weapon authorizations: 135
  - Suspended hunting weapon authorizations: 6
- As part of ongoing routine inspections, three licensed legal entities for the export and trade of weapons in categories "B1," "B2," "C," and "D" were inspected. As part of these activities, 22 individuals were also subject to inspection.
- 17 inspections were carried out at licensed entities authorized to operate with firearms, such as retail shops, dealers, and shooting ranges, which revealed no violations of the requirements of Law No. 74/2014 "On Weapons," as amended, or of its sublegal acts:
- 195 inspections were conducted on private physical security companies and training centers of private security service providers, resulting in 5 administrative measures for legal violations.
- Additionally, the LPDs carried out 286 inspections of entities operating with explosive substances for civilian use, as well as 27 inspections concerning pyrotechnic materials and fireworks, with no administrative measures imposed.

### 5.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required



*Guiding questions:*

Have you identified any challenges or needs for support, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, have you requested or received such support?

- The Police: One of the main challenges in managing WAE is the establishment of the Electronic Weapons Management System.
- MoD: Regarding the enhancement of physical security and proper management of weapons and ammunition depots, the Ministry of Defence has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP to support activities related to SALW control, surplus weapons, and physical security management in Albania. This agreement, signed in February 2023, is valid until 31 December 2025.
- Based on this agreement, the Ministry of Defence has requested support for the implementation of a project to equip all Armed Forces units and departments with metal racks for the storage, physical security, and proper management of Small Arms and Light Weapons in use.
- Currently, the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Armed Forces are awaiting the implementation of this project; however, the remaining time until the end of the year is limited for concrete action.



This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union through the Council Decision 2022/2321 in support of SEESAC for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)  
Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 64, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel: +381 11 4155 300; Fax: +381 11 4155 499;

E-mail: [seesac@undp.org](mailto:seesac@undp.org); Website: [www.seesac.com](http://www.seesac.com)