



Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW in the Western Balkans by 2024

Monitoring Framework (4th Progress Report)

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SEESAC





ROADMAP

FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION,
MISUSE AND TRAFFICKING OF SALW AND THEIR AMMUNITION

IN THE WESTERN BALKANS BY 2024

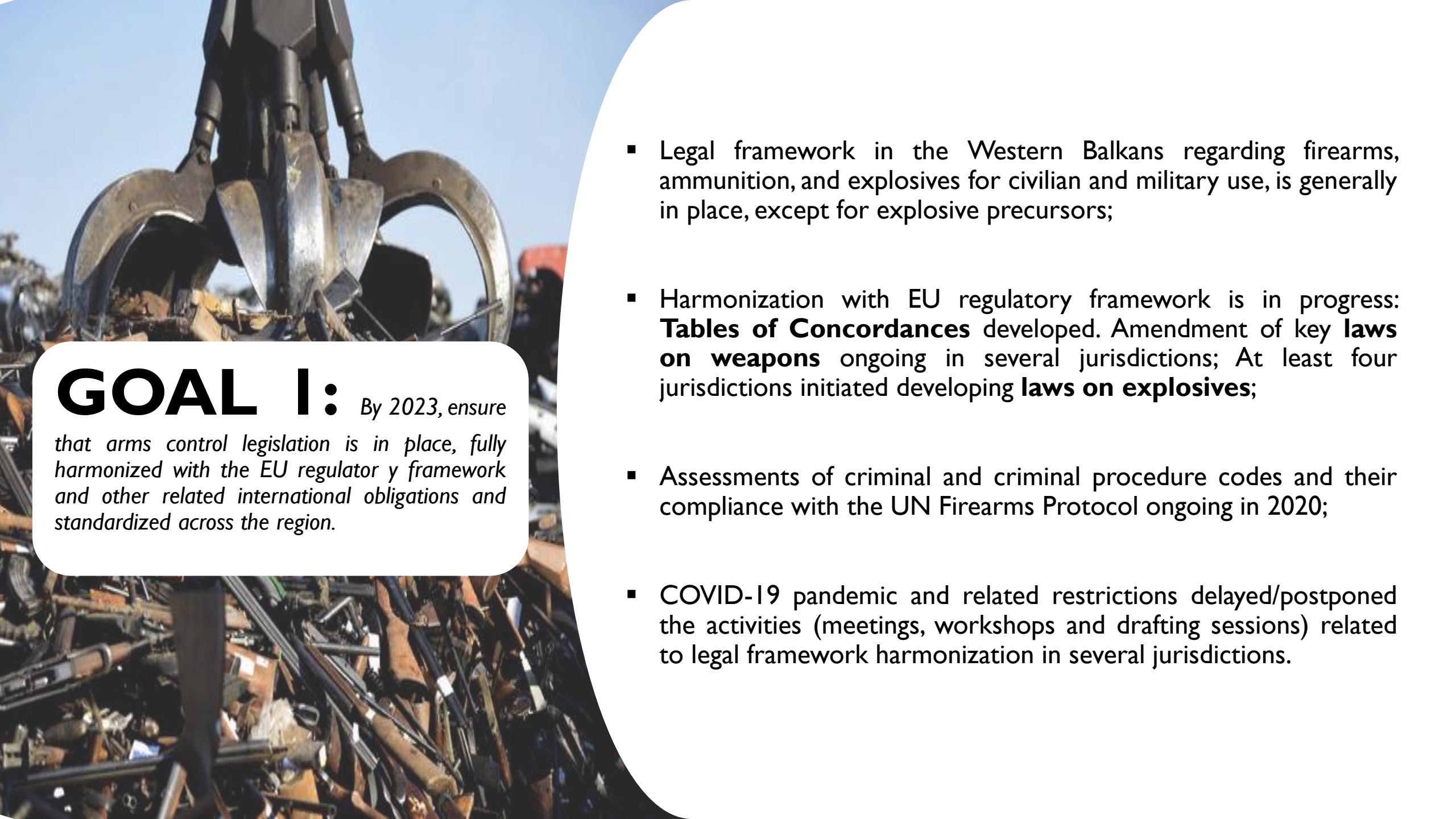
ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION:

Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

- A unique coordination and monitoring platform has been established with funding support through EU CD 2018/1788.
- Four progress reports documenting the progress, challenges and needs in the Roadmap implementation, against the KPIs and its goals;
- Biannual local coordination meetings organized by the SALW Commissions, reviewing implementation of Roadmap Action Plans;
- Four regional roadmap coordination meetings organized, taking stock of implementation of the Roadmap;
- Four informal thematic meetings with key implementing partners organized in 2020;
- A consolidated document on projects under implementation by international organizations distributed biannually.



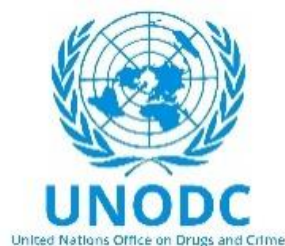
**KEY FINDINGS – 4TH REGIONAL
PROGRESS REPORT**



GOAL I: *By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.*

- Legal framework in the Western Balkans regarding firearms, ammunition, and explosives for civilian and military use, is generally in place, except for explosive precursors;
- Harmonization with EU regulatory framework is in progress: **Tables of Concordances** developed. Amendment of key **laws on weapons** ongoing in several jurisdictions; At least four jurisdictions initiated developing **laws on explosives**;
- Assessments of criminal and criminal procedure codes and their compliance with the UN Firearms Protocol ongoing in 2020;
- COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions delayed/postponed the activities (meetings, workshops and drafting sessions) related to legal framework harmonization in several jurisdictions.

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- **SALW Commissions** are increasingly acting as central bodies in priority setting, coordination and monitoring of activities;
- **SALW Control Strategies** in place while Roadmap **Action Plans** have been adopted by five jurisdictions; A new SALW Strategy and Action Plan currently under development by Sarajevo;
- Activities related to integration of **gender and age** dimension into SALW/firearms control reported by at least two jurisdictions;
- **Firearms Focal Points** established in five jurisdictions, and operational to varying degrees. Connection of databases and production of analytical gun crimes reports initiated by most FFPs;
- Strengthening of cooperation among FFPs at regional level is in increase.

GOAL 2: BY 2024, ENSURE THAT ARMS CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS ARE EVIDENCE -BASED AND INTELLIGENCE-LED

- Increased support targeting enhancement of ballistic and forensic capacities for investigation of firearms related crimes in several jurisdictions; New ABIS (EVOFINDER) reported by two jurisdictions, one in progress;
- Procedures for accreditation of ballistic laboratories in process in Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo and Tirana. Ballistic laboratories accredited according to ISO 17025 in Pristina and Skopje; Delays in procedures due to the COVID-19 related restrictions reported;
- Improving weapons registration systems and completing registration of firearms in legal possession reported by two jurisdictions;
- Exchange of operational and intelligence information with EUROPOL, INTERPOL and EUROJUST ongoing during the reporting period through various channels and tools; Use of iARMS in increase reported by at least two jurisdictions; Tracing of firearms reported by several jurisdictions;
- Information exchange between law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary system still identified as the weak link – challenges in providing data under KPI 3 and KPI 8;



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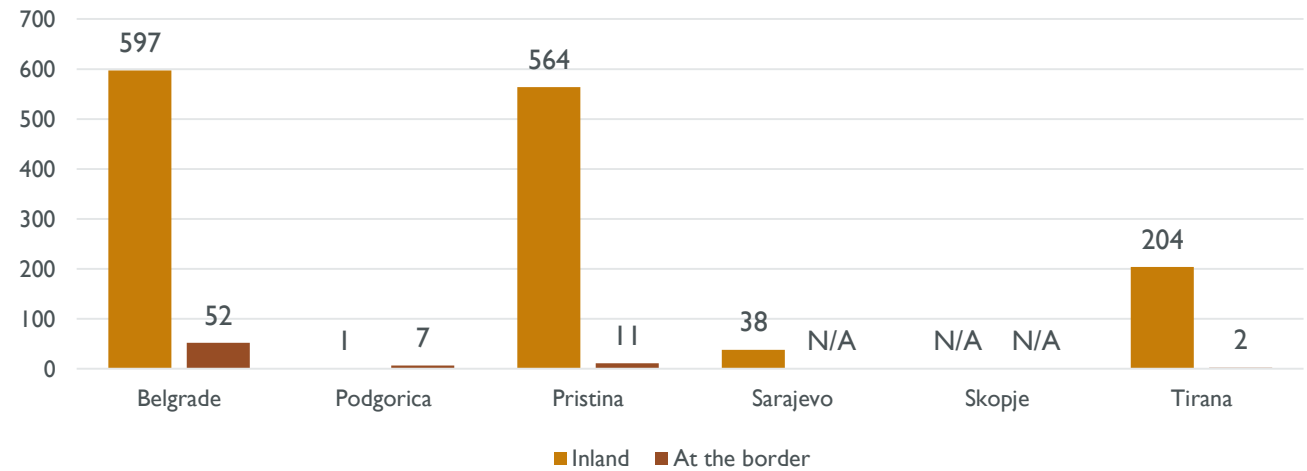


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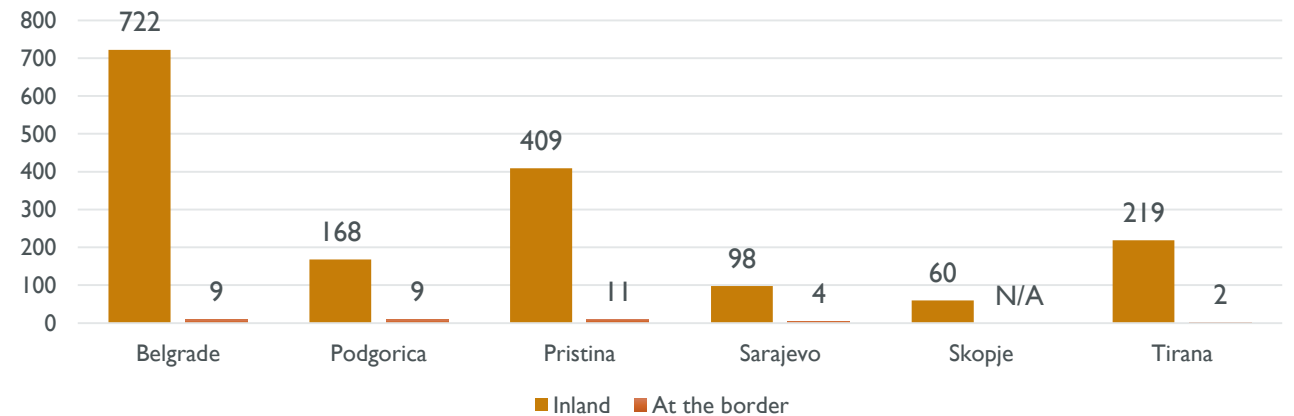
- The trend of cases and number of FAE seized inland higher than those at the border continues in I-2020 in all jurisdictions; Lower number of seized FAE reported compared to the previous period;


GOAL 3: BY 2024, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES (FAE) INTO, WITHIN AND BEYOND THE WESTERN BALKANS

Cases of seized FAE - 2020




Seized firearms





GOAL 3: BY 2024,
SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT
FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION
AND EXPLOSIVES (FAE) INTO,
WITHIN AND BEYOND THE WESTERN
BALKANS (CONT.)

- A full mapping of needs for border police in terms of equipment, training and procedures in preventing and countering illicit trafficking of firearms completed;
- Engagement and cooperation with FRONTEX and EUROPOL (Liaison Officers) focusing on tighter border control reported by most jurisdictions;
- Cooperation with EMPACT ongoing; Participation in preparatory meetings for Joint Action Days reported by several jurisdictions.



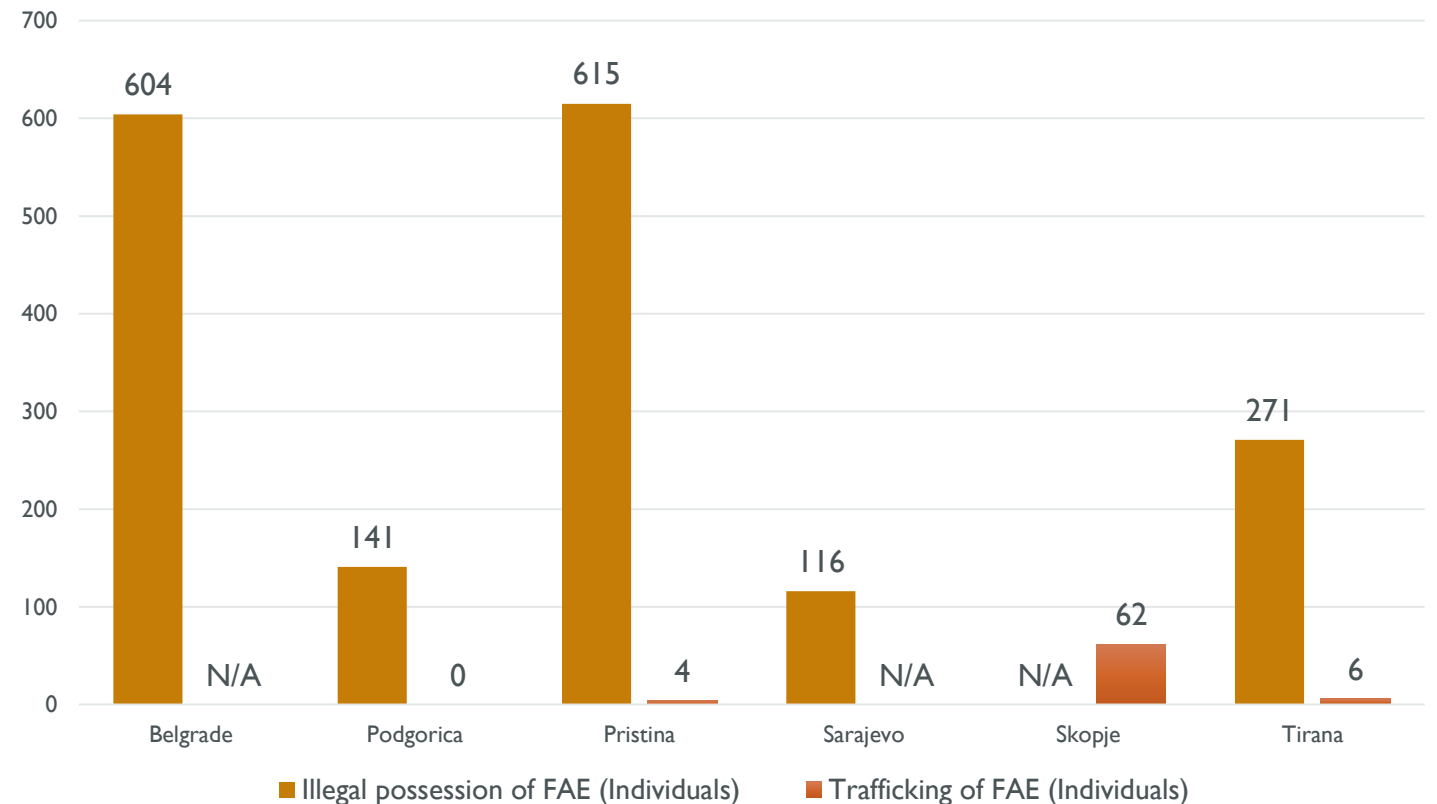
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WESTERN BALKANS (CONT.)

- Increased focus on tackling new trends in firearms trafficking including those of converted weapons, online illicit trade and through fast parcels;
- Strengthening of K9 capacities in support of fighting the illicit trafficking yet to be initiated in several jurisdictions;
- No diversion of legal trade of weapons or ammunition was reported during the reporting period;
- Need for strengthening capacities of criminal justice response on firearms related investigations, with a special focus on illicit arms trafficking.

GOAL 3: BY 2024, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES (FAE) INTO, WITHIN AND BEYOND THE WESTERN BALKANS (CONT.)

- Number of cases and individuals reported for illegal possession of FAE much higher than those for trafficking of FAE.

Illegal possession of FAE vs Trafficking of FAE



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SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT
FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION
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OSCE

Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

EMPACT



EUROPOL



FRONTEx

SEESAC

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

 Bundesamt
für Wirtschaft und
Ausfuhrkontrolle



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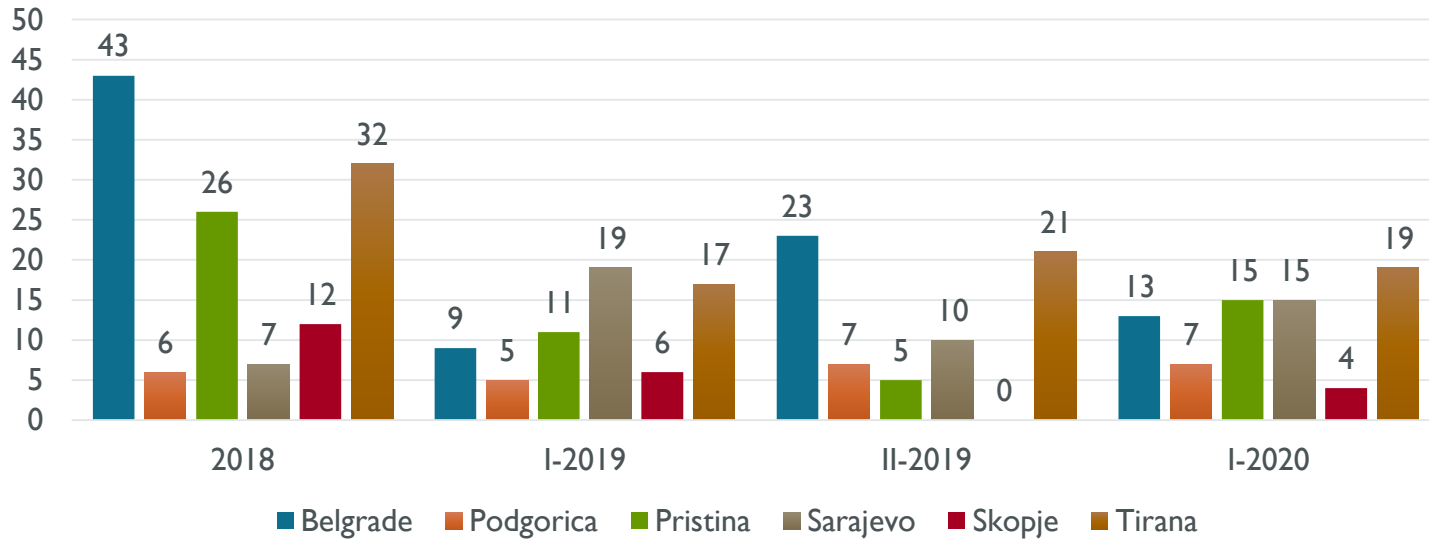
- Limited implementation of awareness raising/outreach activities targeting private and legal entities reported by most jurisdictions due to COVID-19 pandemic;
- Limited awareness raising activities related to the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence;
- Need for support in conducting national wide risk awareness targeting different groups, has been highlighted by all jurisdictions;

GOAL 4: BY 2024,
SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE SUPPLY,
DEMAND AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS
THROUGH INCREASED AWARENESS,
EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND
ADVOCACY

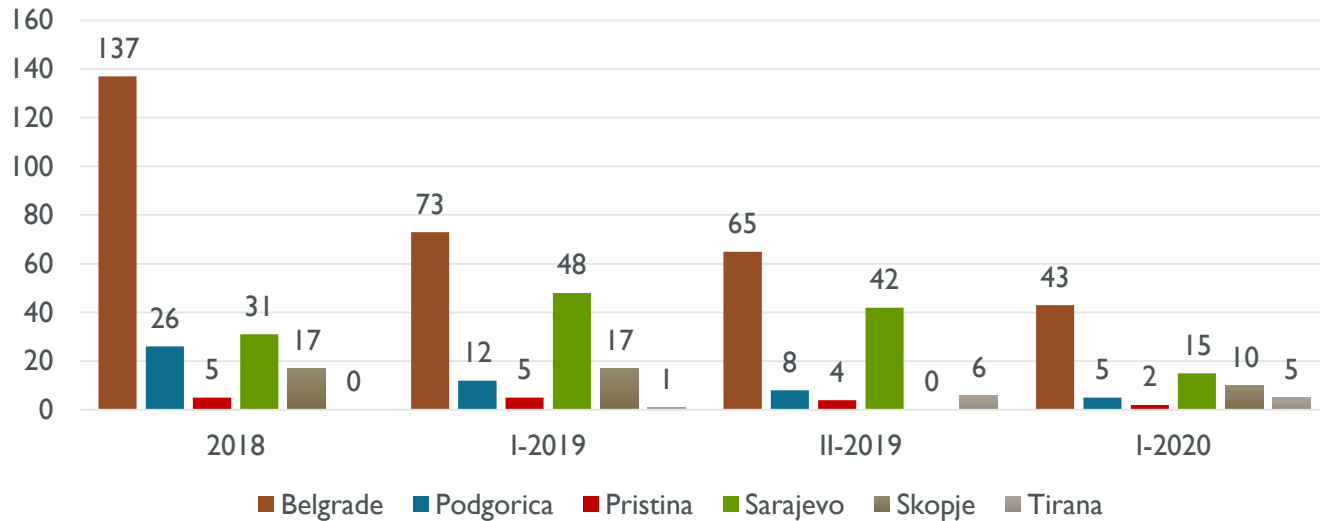
- Decrease in number of FAE related incidents, with majority of those still committed with illegal firearms;
- Types of firearms related crimes in increase during the reporting period include those in criminal context (30%), public disputes (20%) and domestic violence (22.8%);
- A higher number of persons murdered with firearms (73), but lower number of suicides (80) compared to the previous period (66 deaths and 125 suicides).

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Number of persons murdered with firearms



Number of persons who committed suicide with firearms



GOAL 4: BY 2024, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE SUPPLY, DEMAND AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS THROUGH INCREASED AWARENESS, EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY



GOAL 5: BY 2024,
SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASE THE
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FIREARMS IN
ILLICIT POSSESSION IN THE WESTERN
BALKANS

- Voluntary surrender of weapons reported in four jurisdictions; Highest number of registered firearms voluntarily surrendered reported by Belgrade (32,256);
- Three jurisdictions reported use of deactivation as a method to reduce illegal possession of firearms, in small numbers, except for Belgrade (276);
- Legalization of firearms reported ongoing in only two jurisdictions (Belgrade and Sarajevo); Decrease in number of legalized firearms noted compared to the previous reporting period.



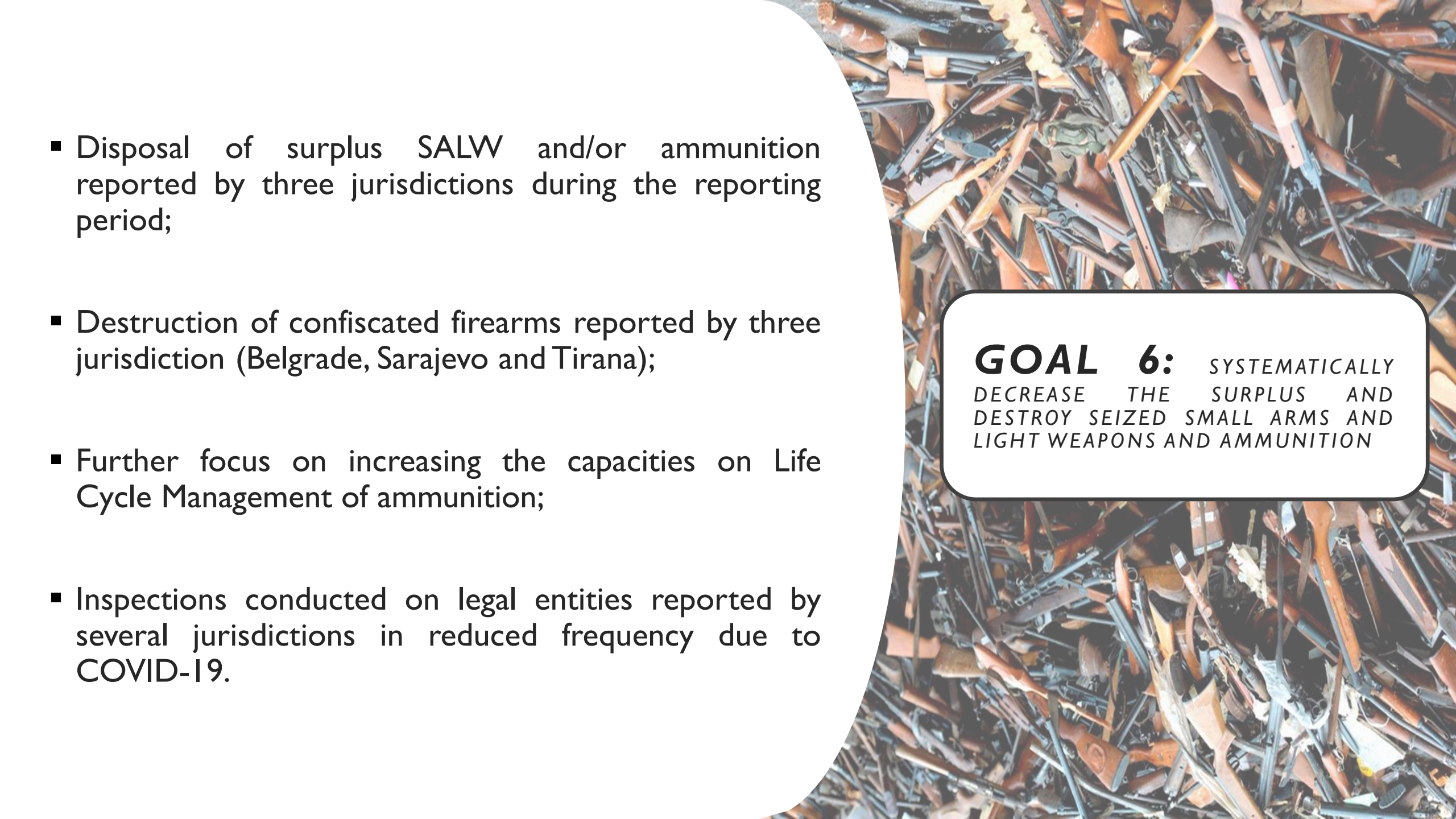
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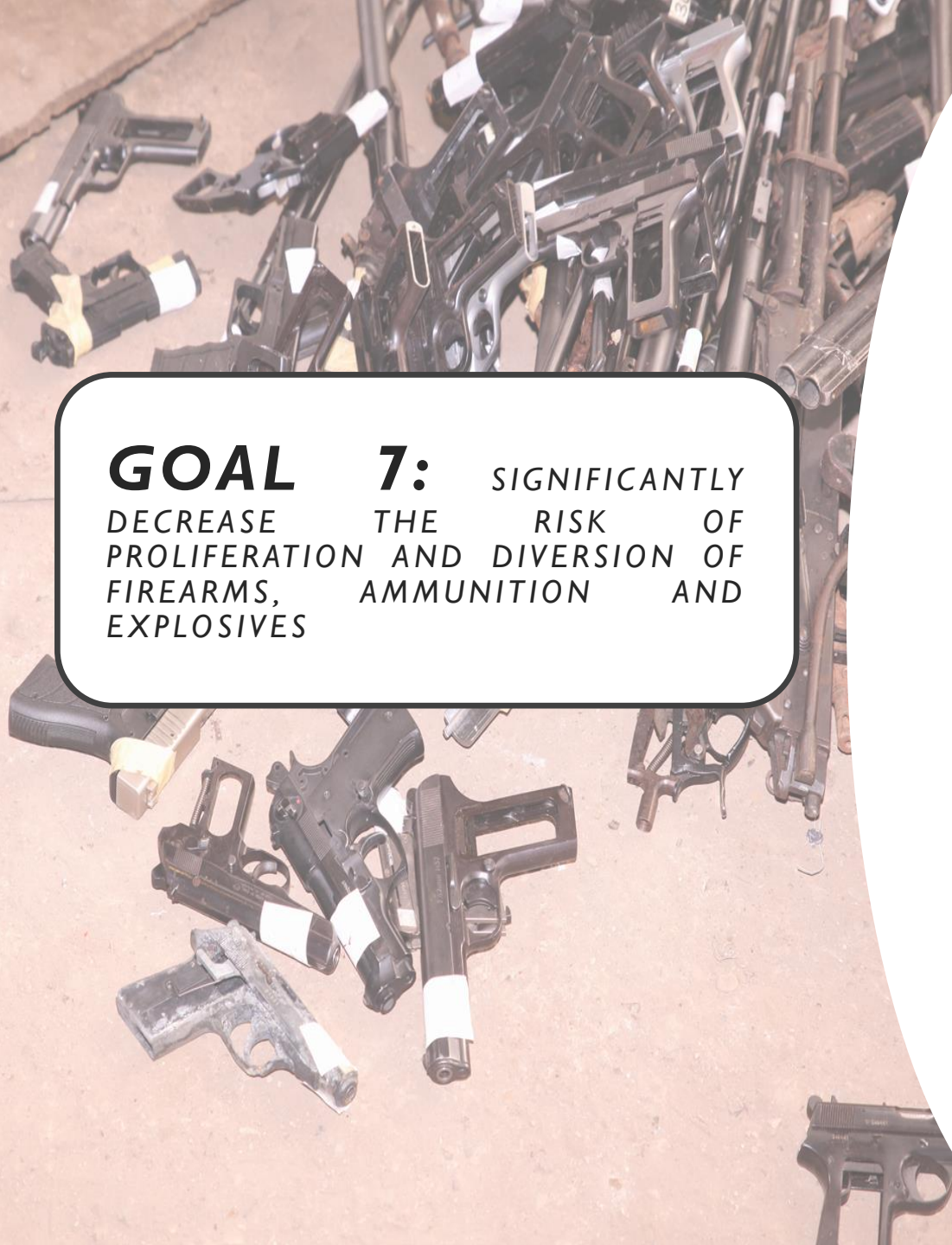


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- Disposal of surplus SALW and/or ammunition reported by three jurisdictions during the reporting period;
 - Destruction of confiscated firearms reported by three jurisdiction (Belgrade, Sarajevo and Tirana);
 - Further focus on increasing the capacities on Life Cycle Management of ammunition;
 - Inspections conducted on legal entities reported by several jurisdictions in reduced frequency due to COVID-19.

GOAL 6: SYSTEMATICALLY
DECREASE THE SURPLUS AND
DESTROY SEIZED SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION



GOAL 7: SIGNIFICANTLY
DECREASE THE RISK OF
PROLIFERATION AND DIVERSION OF
FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND
EXPLOSIVES

- Ongoing work reported by at least four jurisdictions related to security of ammunition storages (both law enforcement and armed forces);
- Need for further support on storage security and surplus disposal expressed by at least four jurisdictions;
- Number of firearms reported lost or stolen from legal entities and individuals slightly decreased during the reporting period, still a worrying trend.

- Lost/stolen firearms

GOAL 7: SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION AND DIVERSION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

	I-2019		II-2019		I-2020	
	Lost	Stolen	Lost	Stolen	Lost	Stolen
Belgrade	10		590		461	
Podgorica	N/A		1	8	1	4
Pristina	4*		49		26	
Sarajevo	1	4	0	0	15	0
Skopje	1	22	38		0	41
Tirana	3**	0	13		7	
Total	38		699		555	

*60 rounds of ammunition

**5,391 pieces of ammunition and 40 pieces of hand grenades

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GOAL 7: SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION AND DIVERSION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

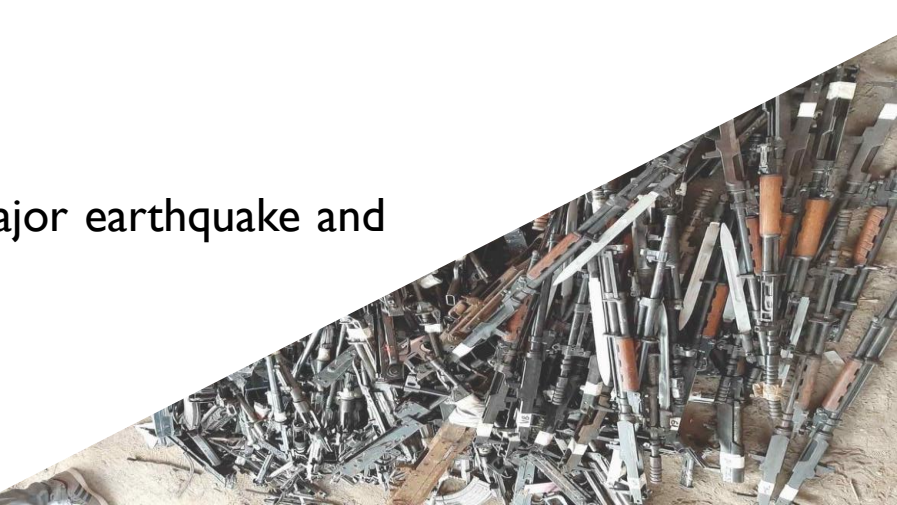


KEY CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 and government measures related to both social distancing and restriction of movement, which affected a number of activities, including:
 - Meetings of working groups;
 - Awareness and outreach activities;
 - Regular inspections to legal entities;
 - Procurement of equipment;
 - Planned assessments in specific areas;
 - Capacity building activities (including trainings and workshops); and
 - Weapons/ammunition disposal activities.
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KEY CHALLENGES

- Shift in priorities by government authorities to respond to the crisis, in particular of police services;
 - Key staff of several institutions directly affected by COVID-19;
 - Changes or delays in implementation of activities by project partners due to COVID-19;
 - Political situation – elections and changes in leadership;
 - At least one jurisdiction dealing with the aftermath of a major earthquake and shifting priorities on disaster response.
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REPORTING PROCESS

- Data collection requires strong coordination from the SALW Commissions; In spite of challenges posed by COVID-19 crisis, significant information was provided;
 - Data collection for KPI 3 and KPI 8 still challenging, requiring cooperation and inputs from prosecution offices and courts; Further consultation and work on information standardization under these KPIs is required;
 - Support of the specialized agencies or individual member states on capturing data for KPI 5, related to seizures inland and at the borders of the EU member states and traced to the Western Balkans is still needed;
 - Quality control is still a must in order to ensure consistency of information collected and submitted;
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THANK YOU