

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

## **Monitoring Framework (4<sup>th</sup> Progress Report) - Pristina**

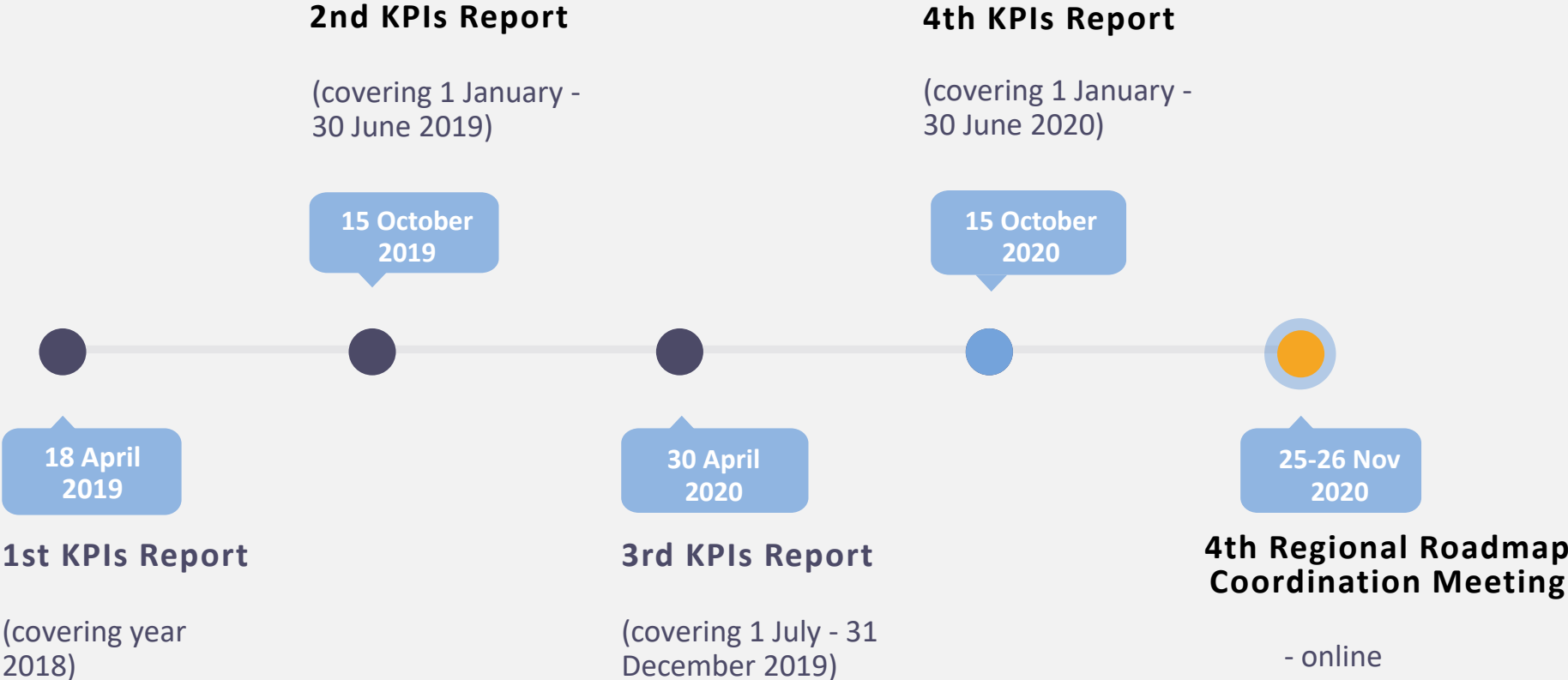
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## **ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION:**

### Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

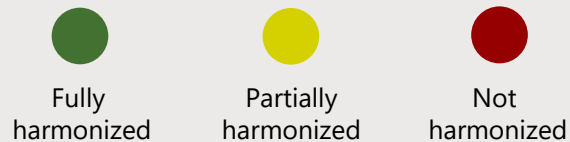
- Biannual progress reports documenting the progress, challenges and needs in the Roadmap implementation, against the KPIs and its goals;
- Web-platform established allowing simultaneous uploading of data under each KPI and providing various levels of access;
- The SALW Commissions are responsible for collecting the required data and progress on activities as per Roadmap Goals, from all relevant institutions (except for KPI 5 and KPI 14);
- SEESAC is integrating the data into a regional report that is shared regularly with the EU, other donors, regional and international partners;
- Supported through the EU Council Decision 2018/1788.

# KEY MILESTONES



PROGRESS REPORT  
– GOAL I  
KEY FINDINGS

	2018	2019	2020
Directive 2017/853 amending 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons			
Regulation 258/2012 Article 10 of the (UN Firearms Protocol)			
Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on deactivation			
Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/68 for the marking of firearms			
Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/69 for technical specifications for alarm and signal weapon			
Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors			
Directive 2014/28/EU on the harmonization of the laws for supervision of CUE			
Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment (MTE)			
Common Military List of the European Union			
Council Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the control of arms brokering			
Directive 2009/43/EC simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products			
Directive 2009/81/EC for the award of certain works contracts, in the fields of defense and security			
Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 for the control of dual-use items			
Arms Trade Treaty			
UN Firearms Protocol			



PROGRESS REPORT –  
GOAL 2  
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 2, 3, 7 & 8)

*By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.*

- A SALW Commission is in place and in charge of coordination and monitoring of SALW Control Strategy (2017-2021);
- No activities initiated during this period on improving the capacities on gender sensitive data collection;
- Firearms Focal Point operational, exchanging information, carrying out periodic risk analysis and periodic assessment of threats;
- Capacity building for investigators, community policing and patrolling officers on firearms investigations ongoing during the reporting period;
- No direct access to INTERPOL's iARMS or EUROPOL's SIENA; Exchange of information ongoing still via UNMIK ILO and to EUROPOL through EULEX;
- 12 lost/stolen firearms recorded in iARMS in the reporting period.

PROGRESS REPORT –  
GOAL 2  
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 2, 3, 7 & 8)

*By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.*

- Tracing of firearms conducted on regular basis; 36 requests for tracing sent and 35 requests received during the first half of 2020;
- The Ballistics Lab has 5 accredited methods as per ISO 17025:2007 and it has extended its accreditation until 2023;
- Standardized data recording and exchange among police and prosecution-courts on firearms related crimes still lacking;
- Number of illegal possession cases much higher than those of trafficking (467 vs 2); Number of cases solved through adjudication or other means much lower in the reporting period (only 3 reported cases vs 102 in the previous period). No cases of altering marking of firearms reported.

PROGRESS REPORT –  
GOAL 3  
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 4, 6 & 9)

*By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.*

- Continuous trend of number of seizures inland much higher to those at the border during the reporting period;
- Number of seizure cases lower than the previous period.

	Inland seizures			Seizures at the border		
	I-2019	II-2019	I-2020	I-2019	II-2019	I-2020
Cases of seized FAE	379	781	564	1	18	11
Seized firearms (pieces)	493	946	409	7	12	11
Seized ammunition (pieces)	5,330	24,908	5,221	985	394	89
Seized explosives (grams/pcs)	27pcs	0	0	0	0	0

PROGRESS REPORT –  
GOAL 3  
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 4, 6 & 9)

*By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.*

- Operational activities aiming to strengthen border control during the reporting period: strengthening K9 capacities; capacity building for border police (training on trafficking trends; training on CIRAM 2);
- Needs assessment of the border-police service in the in countering illicit arms trafficking conducted;
- Initial operational mechanism in place for controlling explosive precursors reported, based on customs practice only;
- No Joint Action Day conducted during the reporting period;
- No intelligence-led cases of operational cooperation with international specialized agencies reported and no usage of supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL.



## PROGRESS REPORT – GOALS 4 & 5 KEY FINDINGS (10 & 11)

*By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.*

*By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.*

- Majority of incidents are committed with illegal firearms;
- Number of incidents with firearms slightly higher to the previous period (12 vs 8). Number of murders with firearms lower in the reporting period (15 vs 23);
- Outreach activities reported targeting private entities/individuals conducted upon request;
- No awareness activities targeting use of firearms in domestic violence, celebratory shooting;
- No voluntary surrender of weapons and ammunition reported;
- No legalization and destruction of weapons during the reporting period.

PROGRESS REPORT –  
GOALS 6 & 7  
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 12 & 13)

*Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition*

*Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.*

- No surpluses or destruction reported during this period;
- Further trainings for inspectors and technical equipment for inspection needed;
- 26 firearms reported lost/stolen during the reporting period;
- About 33 inspections and controls reported; 40% of those related to storage facilities;
- Weapons/ammunition storages reported to be in line with IATGs;
- Number of civilian storages reported in gradual increase.

# IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 and government measures related to both social distancing and restriction of movement, which affected implementation of several planned activities;
- 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 by project partners' of activities (including procurement of equipment) in support to the Government due to COVID-19;
- Political situation – elections and changes in leadership.

## **RECOMMENDED KEY ACTIONS**

- Better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 into Action Plan implementation and its timelines as well as on armed violence and illicit trade;
- Increased focus on armed violence prevention and demand reduction through awareness activities;
- Strengthen capacities of criminal justice response and firearms related investigations, with as special focus on illicit arms trafficking (converted weapons).



*THANK YOU*