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) - Pristina

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SEESAC
• 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

1st KPIs Report
(covering year 2018)
- 18 April 2019

2nd KPIs Report
(covering 1 January - 30 June 2019)
- 15 October 2019

3rd KPIs Report
(covering 1 July - 31 December 2019)
- 30 April 2020

4th KPIs Report
(covering 1 January - 30 June 2020)
- 15 October 2020

4th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting
- online
- 25-26 Nov 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 1</th>
<th>KEY FINDINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directive 2017/853 amending 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons</td>
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<td>Regulation 258/2012 Article 10 of the (UN Firearms Protocol)</td>
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<td>Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on deactivation</td>
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<td>Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/68 for the marking of firearms</td>
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<td>Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/69 for technical specifications for alarm and signal weapon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directive 2014/28/EU on the harmonization of the laws for supervision of CUE</td>
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<td>Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment (MTE)</td>
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<td>Common Military List of the European Union</td>
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<td>Council Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the control of arms brokering</td>
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<td>Directive 2009/43/EC simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products</td>
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<td>Directive 2009/81/EC for the award of certain works contracts, in the fields of defense and security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 for the control of dual-use items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arms Trade Treaty</td>
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<td>UN Firearms Protocol</td>
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By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.

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

- 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.
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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inland seizures</th>
<th>Seizures at the border</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases of seized FAE</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>781</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seized firearms</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(pieces)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seized ammunition</td>
<td>5,330</td>
<td>24,908</td>
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<tr>
<td>(pieces)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seized explosives</td>
<td>27pcs</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>(grams/pcs)</td>
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By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
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 EURÓPOL.
• 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 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.
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.
• 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).