



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) - Skopje

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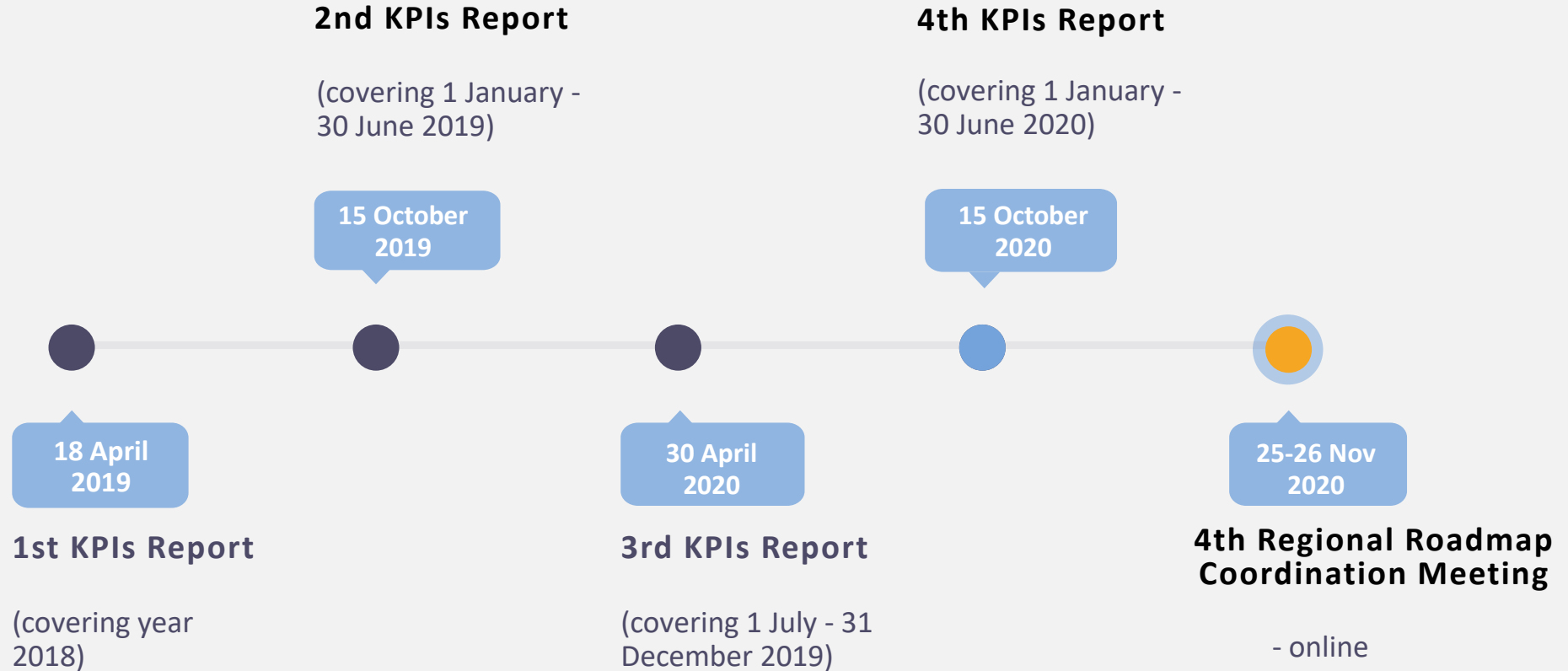


ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION:


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

 Fully harmonized
  Partially harmonized
  Not harmonized

	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 ratified			
UN Firearms Protocol Ratified			

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 and Action plan (2017-2021);
- Work ongoing and planned on capacity development of the SALW Commission; Development of new strategy process to be initiated in early 2021;
- Firearms Focal Point established, weapon registry database and Ballistic information connected. Link to CEMS (CSI database) ongoing but not fully operational due to further development of IMS and/or CRS;
- Tracing of firearms conducted. No information provided on amount of requests or queries during the reporting period;
- Direct access to INTERPOL's iARMS or EUROPOL's SIENA; and a member of IBIN but not at level of FFP.

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.

- Lack of data related to the KPI 3 (cases, individuals and quantity of misused and trafficked FAE prosecuted and adjudicated); Slightly less cases of firearms trafficking reported than in the previous report (60/84);
 - 60 criminal offenses reported – 62 offenders
 - 28 Armed robberies reported
 - 45 cases endangering public safety (celebratory fire)
- The Ballistics Lab has 2 accredited methods as per ISO 17025:2007:
 - Comparative analysis of cartridge cases;
 - Comparative analysis of projectiles.
- A new Ballistic Identification System to be installed (Evofinder).
- The upgraded Weapons Registration and Stockpile Management Software (WRMS) under development; (to be operational by end of 2020)

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 in 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	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Cases of seized: Firearms (pieces)	77	62	60	0	1	No data
Cases of seized: Ammunition (pieces)	1,733	3,323	2,114	9	31	11
Cases of seized: Explosives (grams/pcs)	192	No data	No data	0	No data	No data

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.

	Seized -minor offenses	Seized – Administrative measures	Found
Automatic Rifle	0	0	2
Semi- automatic	0	0	1
Pistol	3	12	18
Revolver	0	1	2
Blank firing weapons	7	1	2
Hunting Rifle	1	17	3
Air rifles	8	4	5
Ammunition	549	160	901
Hand Grenades	0	0	11
Pyrotechnics	7758	0	0
Mines	0	0	10
Rockets	0	0	40

**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.

- Activities aiming to strengthen border control during the reporting period: planning on strengthening K9 capacities; improving response to illegal online and offline firearms sales; analysis of countering trafficking through postal and courier shipments;
- Continued cooperation with EMPACT and participation in operation “Bosphorus”;
- January 2020: Operational case with Switzerland;
- No unified information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor’s office and court on FAE;
- No diversion of arms exports reported;
- Collection of data for Global Firearms Trafficking Study reported;
- Exchange of information ongoing with INTERPOL (26 cases) and EUROPOL (6 cases) during the reporting period;

**PROGRESS REPORT -
GOAL 4 & 5
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 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.

- Higher number of firearm-related suicides reported (10) than of murders (4);
- No voluntary surrender of weapons and ammunition reported;
- No legalization or deactivation of firearms reported;
- No manufacture of weapons in NMK. Outreach activities reported with ammunition producers;
- Outreach on a permanent basis conducted by units for prevention on the use of firearms and pyrotechnics with several target groups;
- Planning of awareness campaign targeting civilians initiated.

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 due to the pandemic;
- 41 weapons lost/stolen firearms during the reporting period;
- 7 weapons recovered resulting from the robberies on gun shops in 2017 (79 were stolen) 2 in Pristina, 1 in Tirana and 5 in Skopje;
- Continued inspections of legal entities by the Mol performed;
- Further support needed for upgrades of existing storage facilities of MoIA;
- Need for establishing a chemical laboratory for testing the chemical stability of low explosives identified.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 and government measures related to both social distancing and restriction of movement, which affected implementation of several planned activities;
- Lack of suitable infrastructure (no easy access to online platforms) hampered the coordination work of the SALW Commission;
- 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.

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 capacities for data recording, collection, coordination and analysis at both strategic and operational level;
- Increase the involvement of the prosecutors in the work of the SALW Commission;
- Strengthen capacities of criminal justice response and firearms related investigations, with as special focus on illicit arms trafficking (converted weapons).



THANK YOU