



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

Monitoring Framework (5th Regional Progress Report) 6 July 2021

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ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION:

Monitoring & Evaluation
Platform

- A unique coordination and monitoring platform has been established. Supported through EU CD 2018/1788.
- 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.
- Five progress reports against the KPIs and roadmap goals issued.
- A consolidated document on projects under implementation by international organizations distributed biannually.

SUPPORT TO WB SALW CONTROL ROADMAP

32 fully funded projects



6 jurisdictions

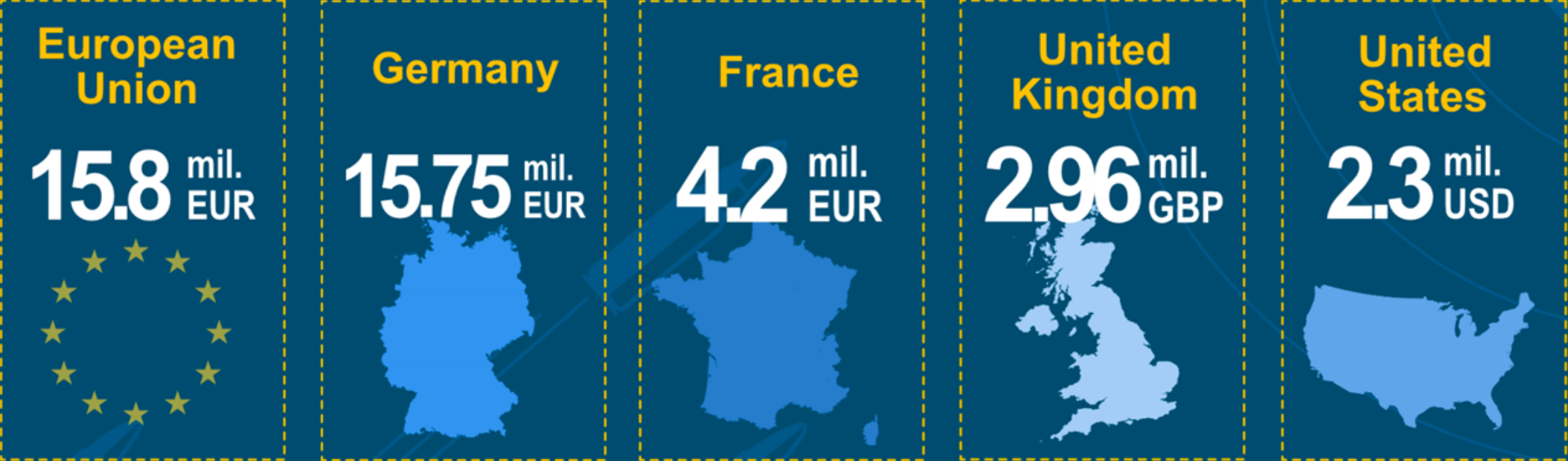
13 implementing partners

10 partially funded projects

9 donors

≈ 41 mil. EUR in support of the Roadmap

FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN A NUTSHELL (2018-2020)



MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND



SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS

2021

7 new projects started

2020

11 new projects started

2019

8 new projects started

2018

5 new projects started



ROADMAP CONTRIBUTION BY GOALS

14 projects contributing to



Goal 1.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON SALW/FIREARMS

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.

4/6 overall targets

19 projects contributing to



Goal 2.

EVIDENCE BASED POLICIES AND INTELLIGENCE LED POLICING

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

7/9 overall targets

19 projects contributing to



Goal 3.

ILLICIT TRADE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL

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

4/4 overall targets

15

projects
contributing to



Goal 4.

AWARENESS, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

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

8/9

overall
targets

11

projects
contributing to



Goal 5.

SALW/FIREARMS VOLUNTARY SURRENDER, LEGALIZATION AND DEACTIVATION

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

2/4

overall
targets

9

projects
contributing to



Goal 6.

SALW/FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION DESTRUCTION

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

2/2

overall
targets

19

projects
contributing to



Goal 7.

STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT

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

2/4

overall
targets

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTIONS

Goal 1



Goal 2



Goal 3



Goal 4



Goal 5



Goal 6



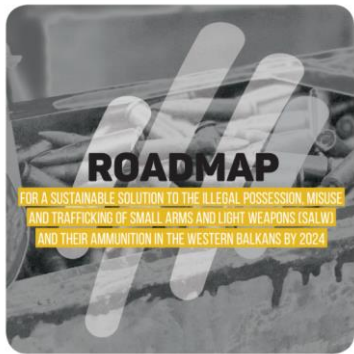
Goal 7



KEY FINDINGS – 5TH 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



- Progress in harmonization of laws/bylaws with EU Acquis reported by five jurisdictions:

- Belgrade: Draft Law on explosives pending adoption; Rulebook on the method of performing control during testing, marking, individual testing, as well as the layout of markings and stamps adopted.
- Podgorica: Preparation of amendments to laws on weapons and on production of firearms reported;
- Skopje: Draft Law on Development, Production and Trade in Military Goods pending adoption; Drafting of Law on explosive materials (including pyrotechnics) ongoing; Rulebook on deactivation of firearms adopted.
- Sarajevo: New law on weapons of Una-Sana Canton adopted (in 2021).
- Tirana: Amended law on weapons adopted; Draft Laws on explosive for civil use and pyrotechnic articles pending adoption.

- Analysis on level of harmonization of legal framework with the EU Acquis reported by several jurisdictions.

- Assessment of level of compliance of criminal codes with the UN Firearms Protocol finalized in several jurisdictions.

GOAL	OVERALL TARGETS	BASELINE	TIMEFRAME
GOAL 1. 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	Ensure full legal and regulatory framework is in place with regards to FAE producers	Low level of awareness on possibility of diversion of parts and components due to loopholes in the control of production process, minimal regulation, security requirements, and oversight over the explosives producers and legal entities utilizing the explosives, no regulation on precursors	2020
	Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards	EU Firearms Directive, EU Deactivation Regulation, EU Implementing Act on arms and signal weapons, EU Common Position on Arms Exports, EU Regulation on Marking, EU Guidebook on Joint Investigation Teams establishment and functioning, Regulation 2017/2012 harmonization with the UN Firearms Protocol, Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Intensive Training Instrument (ITI), COCCE Guidelines, ISACA	2019 - 2023
	Ensure compatibility of arms control legal framework across the Western Balkans which allows direct operation of cooperation	Law on weapons (weapons categorization in particular) with significant discrepancies, Criminal Procedure Codes similar, Criminal Codes similar, laws on Personal Data are in place but discrepancies persist	2019 - 2023
	Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations	No dataset agreed on intelligence exchange; no systematic exchange of information; sporadic bilateral investigations; sporadic attempts to reach ENFSI standard on forensic investigations; only one beneficiary performing Gun Crime Analysis Report; number of the SALW forensic control procedures developed not fully in accordance with the prescribed EU standards and appropriate good practice in use; annual qualitative and quantitative overview of implementation of procedures and practices missing; only one forensic laboratory in the region reached the ISO 17025 accreditation for its ballistics investigation and other related processes	2019 - 2023
Exchange good practices with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap	Exchange of good practices ensured for police investigators, prosecutors, forensic examiners, and customs officers through SEEEN report control through regional information exchange process, policy development through SALW Commissions	2023	

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



- SALW Commissions in place, coordinating and monitoring activities under SALW Strategy and Roadmap Action Plan.
 - Sarajevo - New SALW Strategy and Action Plan adopted;
 - *At least three jurisdictions to initiate evaluation of current SALW Strategies/AP in 2021, as well as drafting new ones.*

- Extensive gender analysis of legal and regulatory framework for arms control undertaken in all jurisdictions.

- Improved data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms by several jurisdictions, yet to be standardized in all jurisdictions.

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



- Firearms Focal Points established in five jurisdictions and operational to various degrees.
 - Draft decision on establishment of WG for the setting up the FFP in Sarajevo adopted in 2021.
 - Connection of relevant databases and production of analytical reports by several jurisdictions.

- Most jurisdictions reported that the accreditation process of ballistic laboratories still ongoing.
 - Capacities of Tirana's and Belgrade's CSI units and ballistic labs significantly improved.
 - New ABIS (Evofinder) installed in Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo and Skopje.
 - Improved marking and tracing capacities reported by four jurisdictions.

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



- **Increased exchange** of operational and strategic information and data reported in 2020 through various channels and tools (iARMS, SIENA, etc).
 - Challenge emphasized by Pristina relates to no direct access to these channels.

- Information exchange between law enforcement agencies, prosecution and judiciary system is still identified as the weak link by all jurisdictions.

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



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



- Increased support on strengthening border police capacities:
 - Needs assessments of border police capacities completed in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Skopje and Tirana;
 - Needs assessment of the customs capacities conducted in Sarajevo;
 - Strengthening of K9 capacities in support of fighting the illicit trafficking planned.

- Development of SoPs for the combat of the illegal trade of firearms reported by Sarajevo and Tirana.

- Planned assessment to identify needs and gaps in countering firearms trafficking through postal and courier shipments.

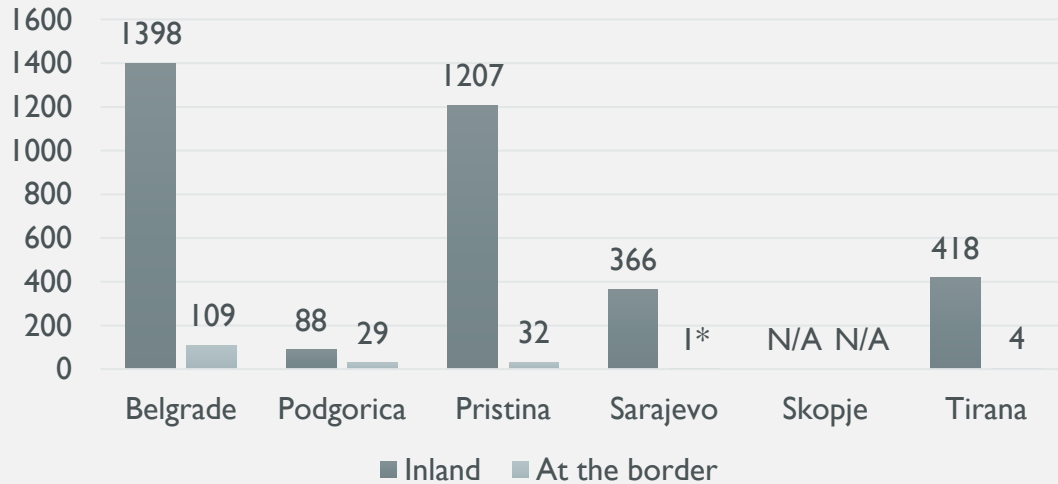
- Increased regional and operational cooperation with EUROPOL, INTERPOL, FRONTEX and EMPACT reported by authorities.

- Participation in Joint Action Days reported by all jurisdictions; Several participated in operations Bosphorus (Conversus) and Armstrong VII 2020.

- No diversion of arms exports reported in 2020.

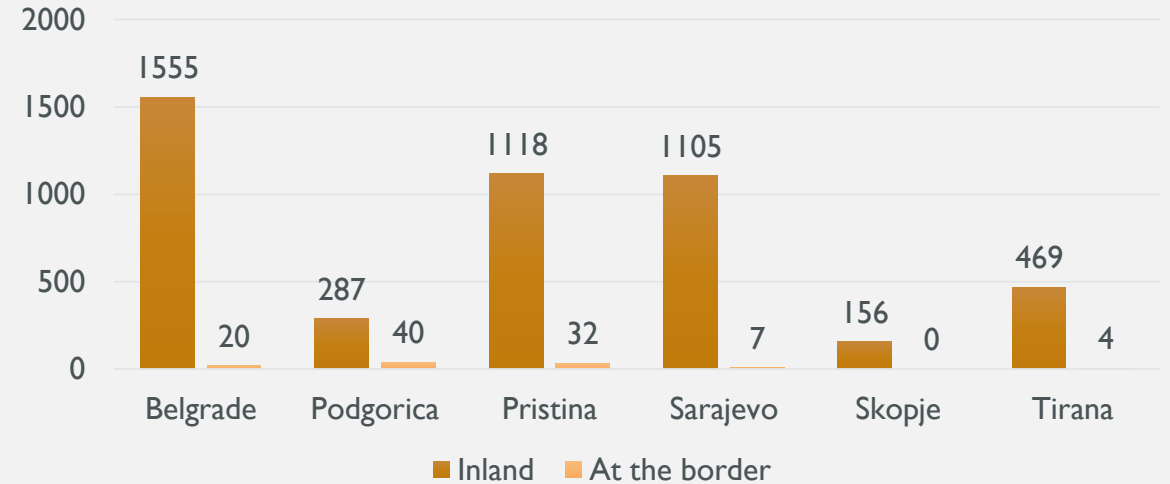
KPI 4 – SEIZURES IN 2020

Cases of seized FAE

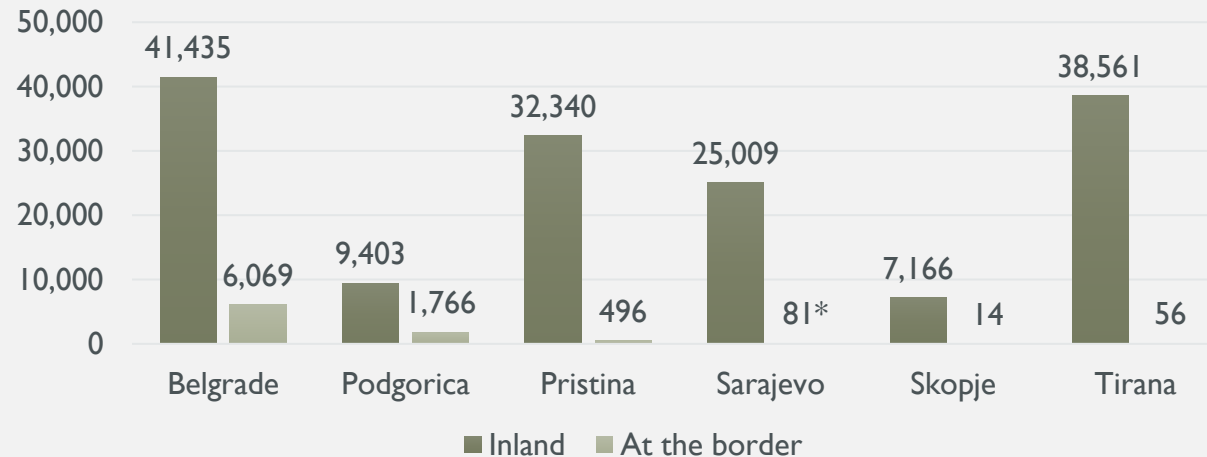


*Data for Sarajevo was partially available in 2020.

Pieces of seized firearms



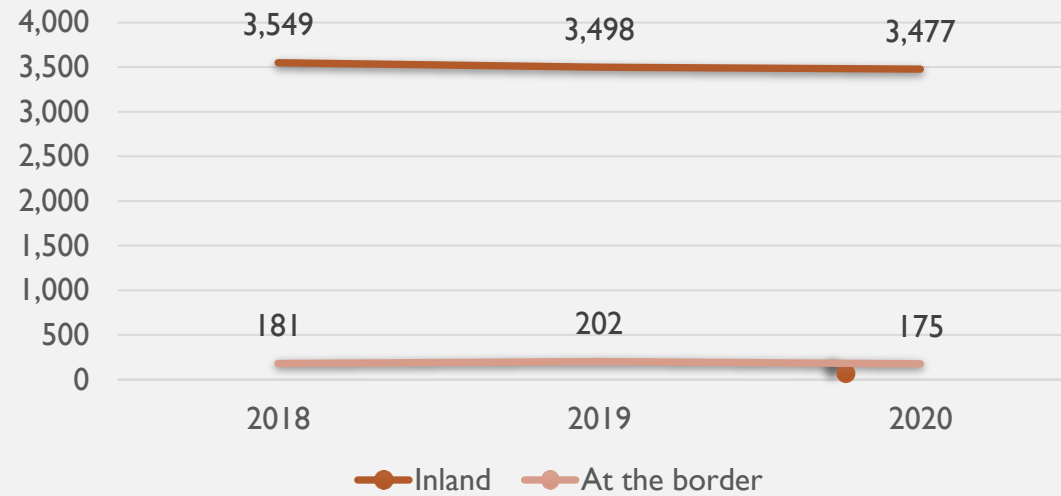
Pieces of seized ammunition



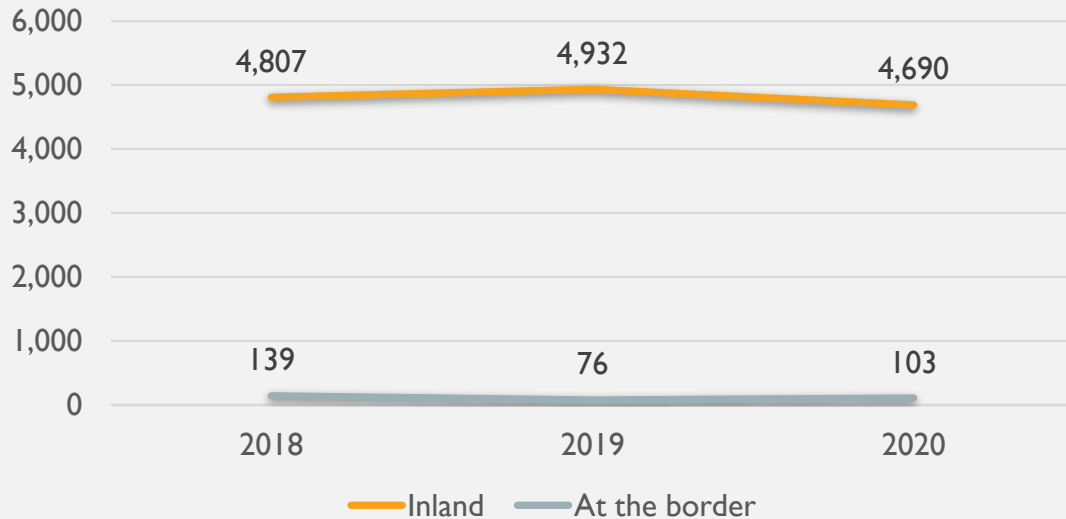
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KPI 4 – SEIZURES

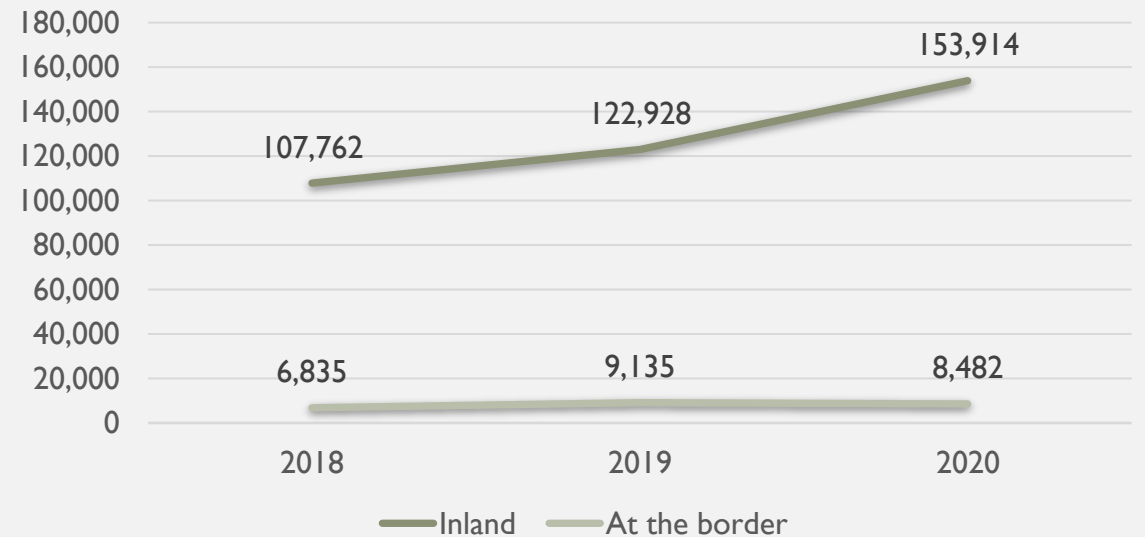
Cases of seized FAE



Pieces of seized firearms



Pieces of seized ammunition



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

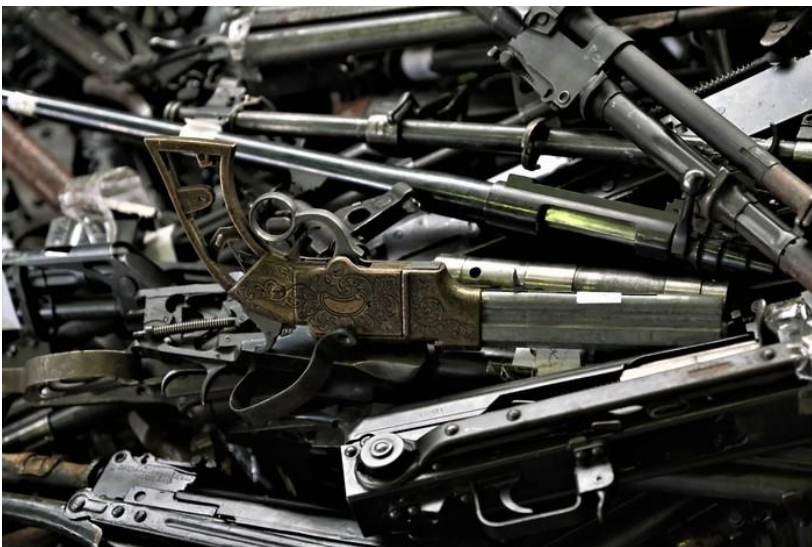
GOAL 5: BY 2024, SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FIREARMS IN ILLICIT POSSESSION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



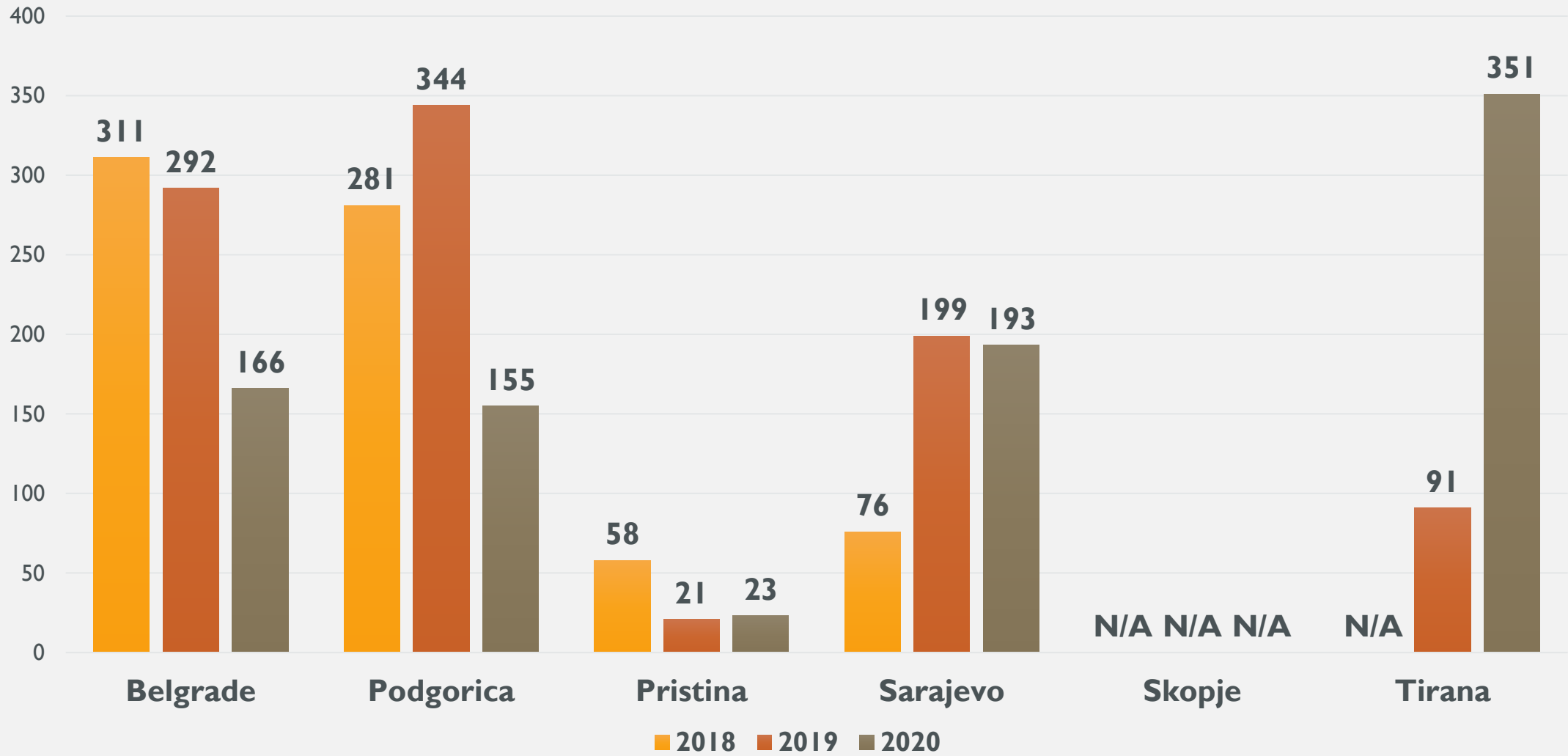
- Activities related to awareness, outreach and education continue to be quite limited.
 - *Activities under this goal reported as most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- Technical and financial support needed to develop and plan awareness raising activities reported by at least four jurisdictions.
- Voluntarily surrendered weapons reported by four jurisdictions (Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Tirana);
 - Number quite low, with exception of Belgrade.
- Reduction of firearms and ammunition in illicit possession relying mostly on intelligence work through seizures and confiscations.

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

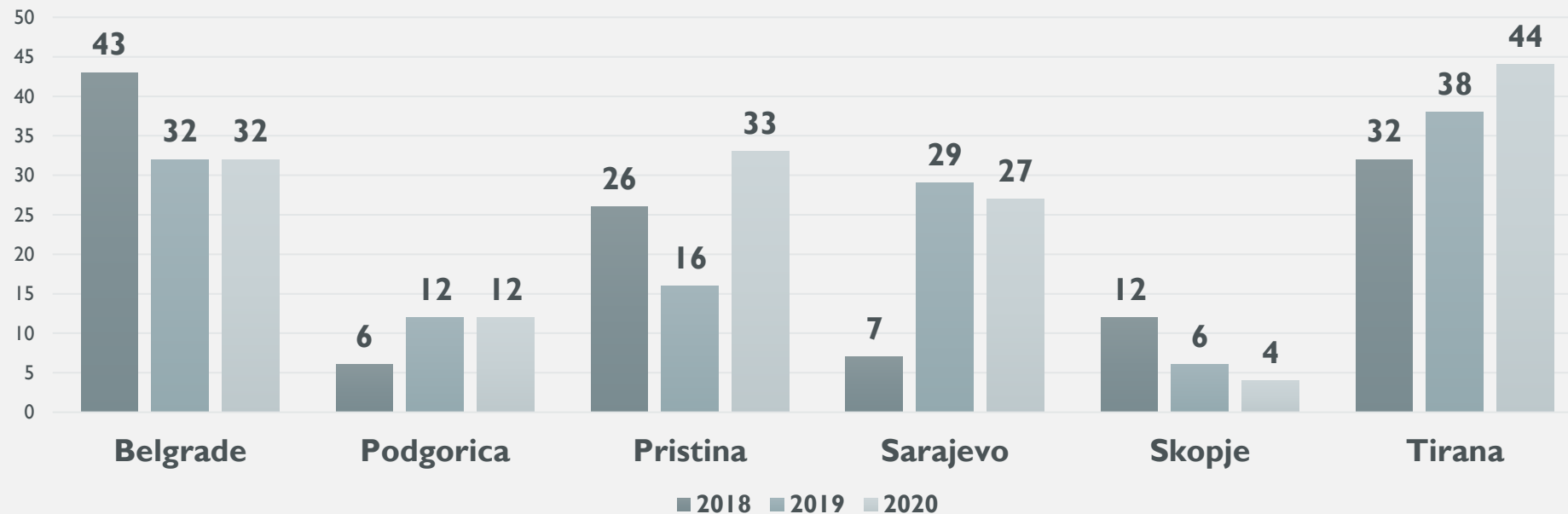
- Legalization of firearms reported by Belgrade and Sarajevo. Weapons re-registration reported by Belgrade.
- Deactivation reported by Belgrade, Podgorica and Sarajevo – though numbers remain low. Deactivation not used yet by the authorities in Skopje and Pristina due to lack of legal basis.
- Need for support in developing and organizing voluntary surrender and legalization campaigns by at least three jurisdictions.



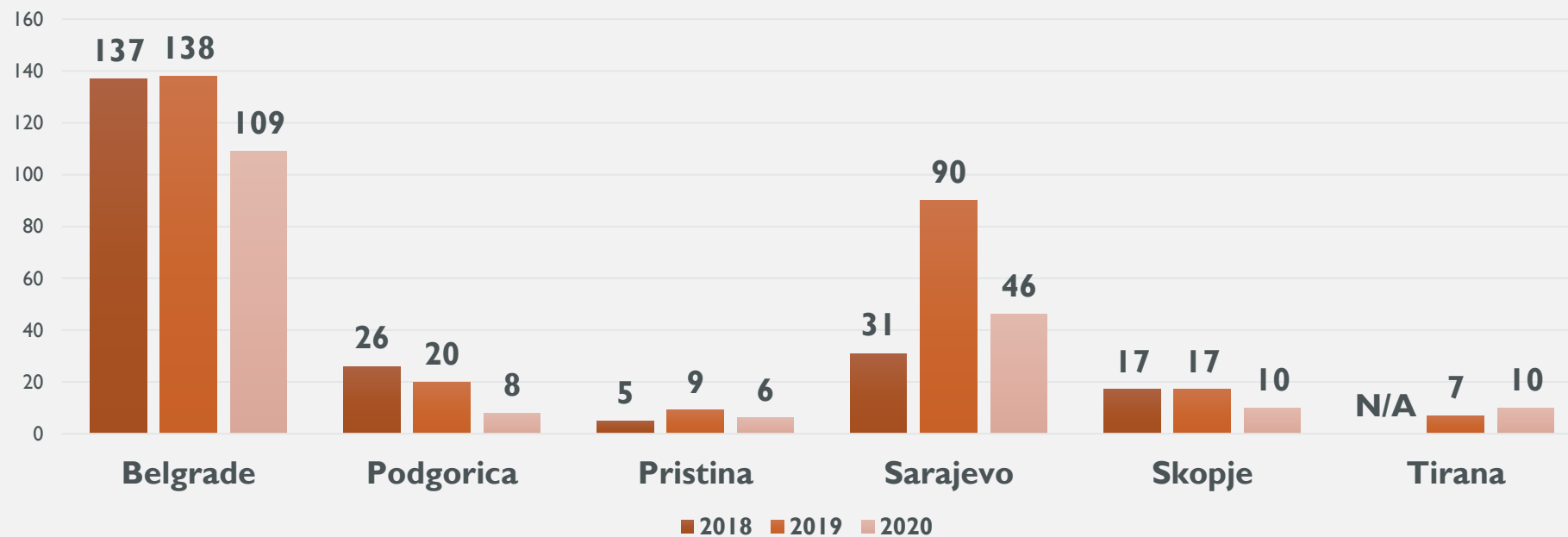
KPI 10 – NUMBER OF FIREARM INCIDENTS



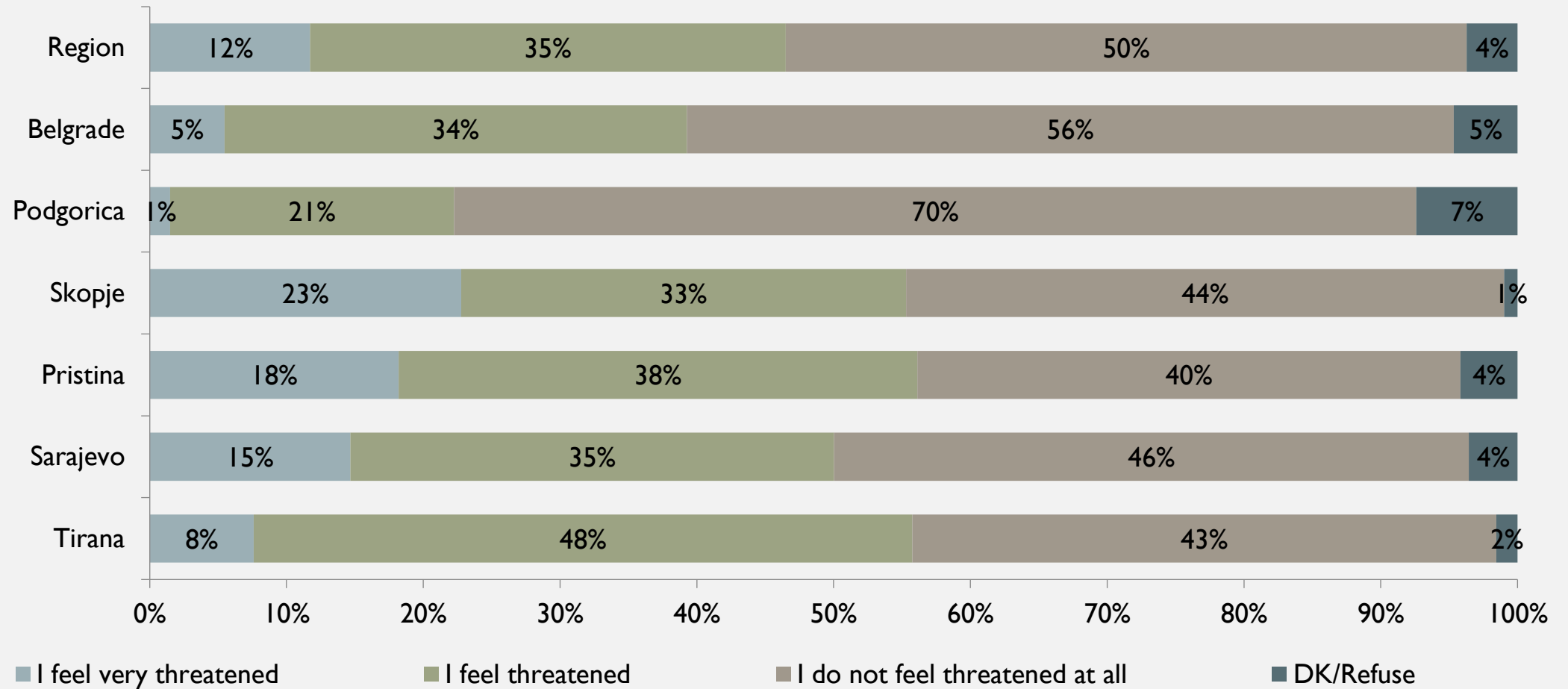
KPI II – DEATHS



KPI II – SUICIDES



- How threatened do you feel by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in your neighborhood (as in crime, domestic violence, celebratory shooting, etc.)?

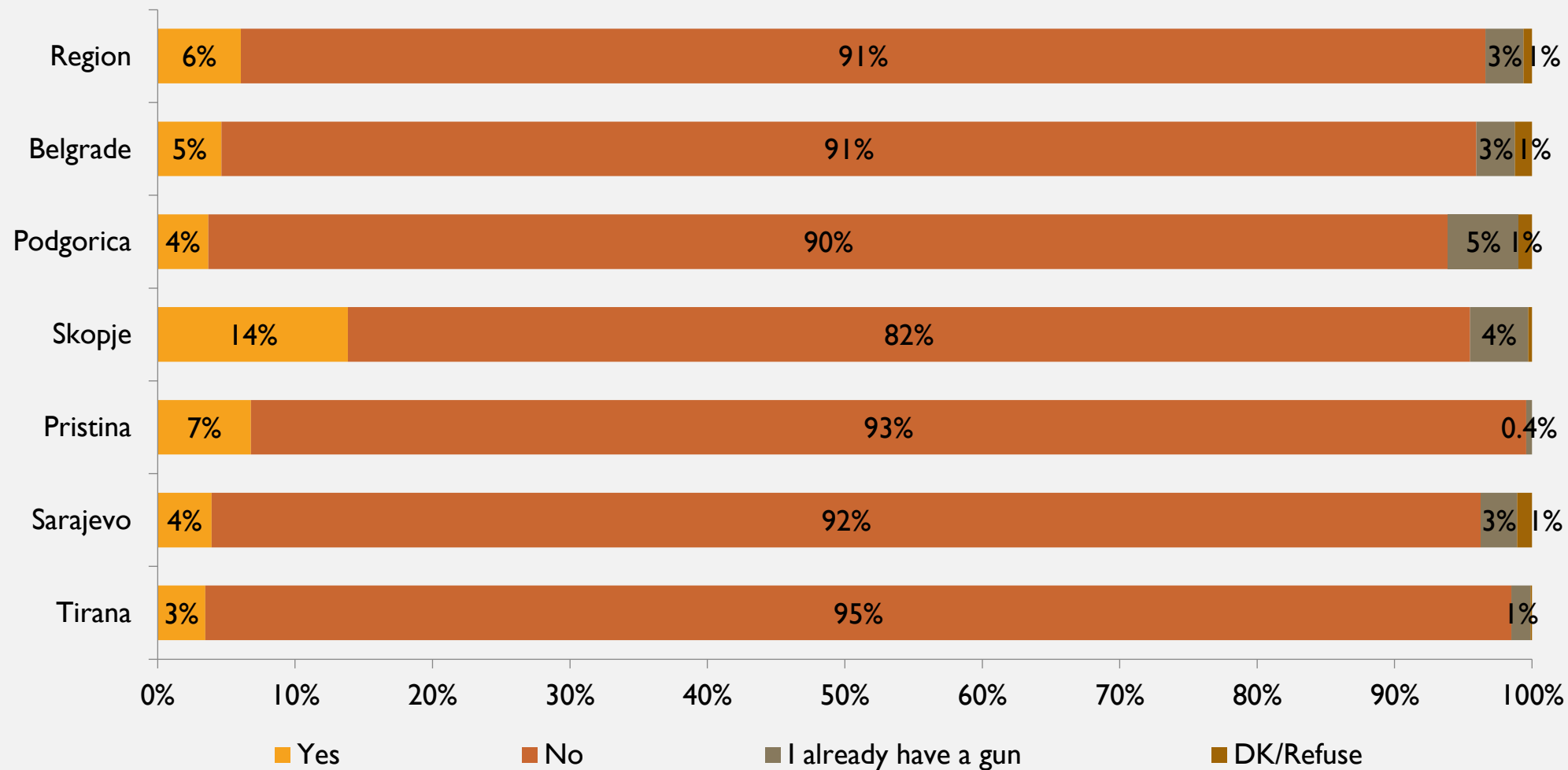


**KPI 14 –
Percentage of citizens feeling threatened by the illegal possession
and misuse of weapons in their neighborhood**

How threatened do you feel by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in your neighborhood (as in crime, domestic violence, celebratory shooting, etc.)?

REGION	2018		2019		2020	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
Age						
18-24	43	44	45	48	46	38
25-34	46	42	43	48	51	42
35-44	45	42	42	52	48	44
45-54	42	36	47	47	52	48
55-64	39	34	44	48	49	43
65 and over	39	36	40	46	48	46
AVERAGE	40%		46%		46%	

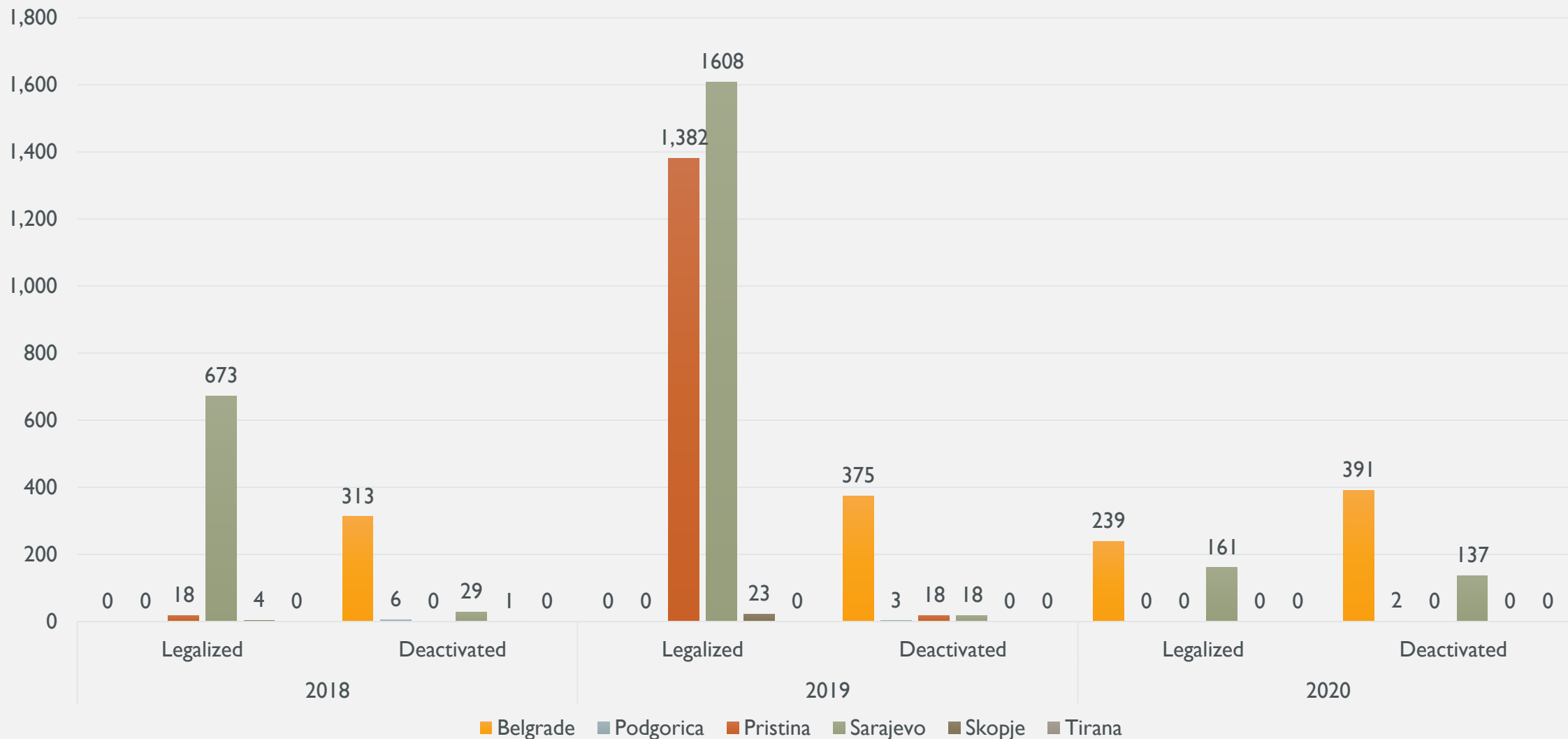
■ *Would you consider owning a gun?*



KPI II – VOLUNTARY SURRENDERED FIREARMS

	2018	2019	2020
Belgrade	24,499	37,210	50,011
Podgorica	147	107	108
Pristina	2	1,415	0
Sarajevo	1,421	1,238	972
Skopje	51	<i>No data</i>	<i>No data</i>
Tirana	0	4	11
Total	26,120	39,974	51,102

KPI II – LEGALIZED & DEACTIVATED FIREARMS



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



- Destruction of confiscated FAE reported by only one jurisdiction (Sarajevo).
- Disposal of surplus FAE reported by three jurisdictions (Belgrade, Sarajevo, Tirana). Need for financial support indicated by at least two jurisdictions (Belgrade, Sarajevo).
- Destruction of SALW/firearms planned to be conducted in II-2021 by several jurisdictions.

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



- Regular and ad-hoc inspections of legal entities were reported by all jurisdictions.
- Continued work on increasing safety and security of both law enforcement and armed forces storage facilities reported by five jurisdictions.
- Need for further international support for security enhancement was reported by Belgrade and Podgorica.
- Need for support in preparation of Standard Operating Procedures on handling lost and stolen weapons reported by Skopje.

LOST/STOLEN FIREARMS

	2019	2020
Belgrade	600	2021
Podgorica	9*	10
Pristina	53	142
Sarajevo	5	33
Skopje	61	65
Tirana	16	13
Total	744	2284

*Data for Podgorica was not available for I-2019.

KEY CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 and government measures related to both social distancing and restriction of movement, continued to affect a number of activities, including:
 - Meetings of working groups;
 - Awareness and outreach activities;
 - Regular inspections to legal entities;
 - Capacity building activities (including trainings and workshops); and
 - Weapons/ammunition disposal activities.

- Key staff of several institutions directly affected by COVID-19;

- Shift in priorities by government authorities to respond to the crisis, in particular of police services;

- Changes or delays in implementation of activities by project partners due to COVID-19.



THANK YOU