



**SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS,
THEIR AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES
CONTROL STRATEGY
2019 – 2024**





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*Empowered lives
Resilient nations.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Scope.....	7
1.2 Vision.....	7
1.3 Methodology.....	7
2. SITUATION ANALYSIS	8
2.1 Threats against national security and the obligations under the EU integration process	8
2.2 Voluntary surrender of weapons	8
2.3 Firearms trafficking methods	9
2.4 Challenges ahead	9
2.5 International cooperation with partners in the area of firearms trafficking	10
3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES	11
4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS	12
4.1 Legal framework.....	12
4.2 Institutional commitments.....	13
5. STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN GOALS	14
6. STRATEGY MONITORING AND EVALUATION	17
6.1 Monitoring and evaluation indicators.....	17
ACTION PLAN 2019-2021 OF THE STRATEGY ON SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS, THEIR AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES CONTROL 2019 – 2024	18
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.....	18
GOAL 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in Albania are evidence based and intelligence led	20
GOAL 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond Albania	26
GOAL 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.....	30
GOAL 5: By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in Albania	32
GOAL 6: Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition, adhering to environmental standards	34
GOAL 7: Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives	36

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fight against crime and improving public order and safety in Albania continue to be strategic priorities of the Albanian Government.

Illicit firearms and military ammunition owned by citizens and their misuse, continue to be a serious source of risk to the lives of the citizens and also to public order and safety.

Considering this risk as a serious obstacle also for the social and economic development of the country, which affects the public safety, and with a negative effect in the safety of the citizens, the State Police has continuously paid special attention to the prevention of criminal offences related to illicit possession of firearms, but also to other criminal offences related to the trafficking of weapons, ammunition, etc.

Although the illicit trafficking and possession of firearms, gun crimes, explosives and their precursors have decreased on each year, they still present a threat to human life and public order and safety. When illicit weapons, ammunition and explosives are analysed in the context of national safety and threats, such as the fight against terrorism, then the control, management and fight against the illegality of this sector receive a new dimension, to which special attention and resources should be provided.

The interaction and cooperation between crime and terrorist groups, knows no boundaries and that is why this strategy follows an inter-agency approach.

Apart from national demand to increase public safety, this strategy shall also contribute to the regional and EU safety through improved border control, and also fighting against illicit exports and imports of weapons, ammunition, explosives and their precursors.

Apart from the control, management and fight against illicit weapons, ammunition and explosives, the fight against terrorism requires additional control and supervision measures on the personnel, state and private legal persons that import and use explosives and their precursors.

The priority of the State Police has been and shall always be the provision of a safe environment, for local or foreign citizens, businesses and the whole society.

Currently, the illegal possession of firearms in Albania is a concern due to the situation inherited over the years, but also due to the increase of the flow of people and goods, which has resulted in the increase of criminal activity in the area of illicit trafficking of weapons and ammunitions.

The State Police continuously works to minimize the number of criminal offences related to the illegal possession of firearms, by identifying the persons that carry them illegally and organizing the work to catch these people in the act, but also to reduce the number of other criminal offences related to firearms trafficking, etc.

The possession of firearms and their misuse indicate a clear gender dimension. In Albania, the majority of firearms license holders are men (99.9%). Also, men account for the overwhelming majority of the perpetrators of incidents committed with firearms (98%) and are more prevalent among victims (89%). On the other hand, women own only a small part of firearms. They misuse them rarely but are disproportionately represented among victims (11%). Most of the women victims are domestic violence victims and the misuse of firearms happens within this context.

The Parliament of Albania has approved a number of laws on weapons, which aim to provide a more effective control, such as:

- a. The Criminal Code, which has provisions that define criminal offences related to illicit possession of weapons and ammunitions, and also firearms and ammunition trafficking.
- b. Law No. 74/2014 "On Weapons".
- c. Law No. 72/2014 "On the use of firearms".
- d. Law No. 9126, dated 29/07/2003 "On civil use of explosives, pyrotechnic compositions and fireworks in the Republic of Albania", as amended by Law No. 10 388, dated 03/03/2011 and Law No. 73/2014.
- e. Law No. 9020, dated 06/03/2003 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania, in the "Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the purpose of detection".

With the normative acts of the Council of Ministers and with the Instructions of the Minister of Interior or other institutions mandated by the law, the legal acts and by-laws pack-

age in Albania is now complete to allow the use of weapons in legal activities, for the category that fulfils the conditions and criteria, but also to penalize those citizens, who intend to exercise and organize illegal activities in this regard.

Albania has joined the main international agreements on firearms control, including: the Arms Trade Treaty, United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Firearms Protocol, and has embraced the regional initiatives to strengthen small arms and light weapons (SALW) control in the territory of the Republic of Albania and in the entire region.

In 2016, the Republic of Albania disposed the surplus of weapons and ammunitions inherited by the previous system. The Ministry of Defence has closely cooperated with international partners to fulfil this commitment. During the SALW reduction and disposal process, the Armed Forces (AF) of the Republic of Albania, have been assisted by international organizations and partner countries, such as NATO, UNDP SEESAC, Germany, USA, Norway, Great Britain, Canada, OSCE, etc.

Also, there are legal procedures regarding the surplus of ammunition, which are generated periodically due to inventorying and confiscations.

The National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), which is an inter-ministerial body responsible for planning, coordinating, monitoring and reporting all activities related to arms control in the Republic of Albania, was established by order of the Prime Minister, in order to ensure a safe environment and therefore to create favourable conditions for the sustainable development of the country. The main goals of the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons are:

- To formulate the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Control of SALW, in compliance with the areas of responsibility and based on a full assessment of the firearms control situation in Albania, and also to monitor and report the implementation of the goals of this Strategy.
- To fulfil Albania's commitments in the framework of the UN, the obligations for EU integration, and also in the framework of promoting regional cooperation to enhance understanding, peace and stability.

The Strategy and Action Plan ensure and monitor the fulfilment of Albania's obligations under different international conventions and documents in the area of firearms control (including the UN Programme of Action, the OSCE Document on SALW, the Arms Trade Treaty, the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in SALW, the EU Code of Conduct etc., and also the alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, the Strategy and the Action Plan refer to the "Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans, by 2024".

The Goals of the Strategy and Action Plan are the same with the regional Roadmap and also with the performance indicators.

Although Albania has approved the Law 74/2014 "On Weapons", the approval for the first time of the private ownership on weapons, requires amendments, not only due to the experience gained during its implementation, but also because of harmonization with the European Firearms Directive which was amended in 2017.

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.
GOAL 2	By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in Albania are evidence based and intelligence led.
GOAL 3	By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond Albania.
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 Albania.
GOAL 6	Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition, adhering to environmental standards.
GOAL 7	Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoESY	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
MoEFA	Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MoTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
SP	State Police
GDC	General Directorate of Customs
GDP	General Directorate of Prisons
AKSHE	State Export Control Authority
EU	European Union
UN	United Nations Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
CoE	Council of Europe
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
FAE	Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SEEFEN	South East Europe Firearms Expert Network
SEEFEG	South East Europe Firearms Experts Group
FFP	Firearms Focal Point



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE

The main scope of this six-year Strategy is the total control on small arms and light weapons, ammunitions and explosives based on the national requirements and the EU, UN and OSCE standards.

This strategic document aims to define overall directions for the institutions and agencies, which will implement the activities of the Strategy in the coming years.

The document presents the Albanian Government's vision on the control of weapons, ammunitions and explosives and the respective action plan.

The approval and the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan, which follows the establishment of the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons, is also stated in the European Union progress reports of the recent years.

The Republic of Albania has undertaken to promote stability and safety, not only nationally, but also to be an important contributor for the safety in the region and beyond. The international cooperation in the area of control and fight against illegal trafficking of SALW and explosives remains one of the priorities of the Government.

1.2 VISION

The Republic of Albania is a country with a safe environment and sustainable capacities to prevent, control and prosecute the misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of firearms, ammunitions and explosives, fully harmonized with the European Union and other international standards.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The Strategy and the Action Plan for the Control of SALW and Explosives is drafted based on the assessments and analysis of specialized agencies, statistical data from the government and international institutions that operate in Albania and abroad.

This strategy is based on the European Union requirements, which stem from the "EU Action plan against illicit trafficking in and use of firearms and explosives", and also from the UN Programme of Action.

This strategy is also based on other international practices and standards (UN). In this context, this Strategy aims to be fully harmonized with the respective EU and other international standards and regulations.

In particular, the Strategy and the Action Plan refer to the "Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans, by 2024".

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania through Order No. 69, dated 22/05/2017, decided the establishment of the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), its composition and to be chaired by the Deputy Minister of Interior.



2. SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1 THREATS AGAINST NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS

If it is not kept under control, Small Arms and Light Weapons may pose a threat to national security or it may be a source of danger to the region and the EU. Weapons have an impact on people, communities and businesses. They continue to cause loss of lives, economic and social damages and fear among the public.

Albania has determined the procedures of dealing with the stockpiles of seized and confiscated weapons, ammunitions and explosives and by Decision of the Council of Ministers, these ordnance are periodically submitted to the Ministry of Defence to be dismantled in military factories.

The survey on the distribution of weapons and their impact concluded on January 2018 and the results show that there is incomplete information on specific armed incidents and

this shall remain one of the obligations in the Action Plan of the SALW Strategy, to standardize statistics.

The Strategy and the Action Plan aim to give a comprehensive solution to the problem of illegal possession of firearms and the activities to reduce the illicit possession of firearms through confiscation, legalization, voluntary surrender and deactivation.

Between 2006-2017, a total of 9,380 criminal offences of illicit possession of firearms were identified nationwide, of which 8,268, or 88.1%, were detected, with 9,687 perpetrators. What is striking is that the trend of this criminal offence increased after 2012, compared to previous years.

During 2017, 1,090 perpetrators who had committed the criminal offence of illegal possession of firearms were identified, of which 587, or 54%, were arrested, 111 or 10%, were detained, 246, or 23%, were released under investigation, and 139 perpetrators, or 13% of the total, were wanted.

2.2 VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF WEAPONS

After the events of 1997, when weapons, ammunitions, grenades and military equipments were looted from the state warehouses in Albania, several amnesties on the voluntary surrender of weapons have been implemented in our country, in order to avoid a mass penalization of the Albanian citizens, giving them the opportunity to surrender the illegal weapons in their possession, which are a state property.

The time frame of the first amnesty was August 1998 - August 2002, and during this period it was also finalised and approved Law No. 8388, dated 05/08/1998 "On the Collection of Military Ammunitions and Weapons", a law which es-

tablished the principles and methods for voluntary surrender of weapons, the registration for a category of businessmen and the methods to be employed by the police for collection of weapons.

The second amnesty was drafted on December 2002, but the amnesty and the law were approved on 6 March 2003, Law No. 9018 "On the collection of weapons, ammunitions and other military equipments". This law contained similar aims, principles, duties for the police and military, and the same structure of weapons collection commissions in Albania. The law remained in force until 31 May 2005.

Weapons collected during both amnesties:

	Ammunitions	Explosives	Weapons
LOOTED IN 1997	839,310,038	16,000,000	549,775
COLLECTED: MARCH 1997 – JUNE 2005	118,134,222	1,539,828	222,918 or 40.54%

A third amnesty was enacted between January-April 2017 and as a result of the work and awareness campaigns, the following weapons and ammunitions were voluntarily surrendered nationwide:

- 1,603 different types of firearms.
- 1,558 hand grenades.
- 580,634 different types of ammunition.

On average, 13 different firearms were surrendered each day nationwide. This situation shows that there are still considerable amounts of illegally possessed firearms and military ammunitions, in the hands of the citizens.

The public opinion survey conducted in 2016 by SEESAC through the leading global polling agency "IPSOS", showed that over 60% of Albanian citizens are opposed to firearms possession under any circumstance, while 78% believe that the State Police is the main contributor of security in the country.

The periodic application of the amnesty on the illegal possession of firearms for a 2-3 months period, the cooperation of the State Police with international organizations, media, other state institutions and different NGOs towards raising citizens awareness, would increase the number of voluntarily surrendered weapons and ammunitions, which are illegally possessed by the population.

The situation of firearms, ammunitions and explosives trafficking in the territory of the Republic of Albania was assessed taking into account factors such as the existence of firearms inherited from the past, new weapons and Albania's geographic location.

Based on the technical-ballistic expertise of the weapons sequestered by the police in different criminal offences, it was also determined the firearms manufacturing origin. Based on these measures, we create a general overview which provides answers to the following questions: what types of firearms are in circulation in the Republic of Albania, their movement trend, in what types of criminal offences are weapons used, the age groups, areas where weapons are concentrated, etc.

An issue continues to be the presence of explosives inherited from the past, such as TNT and dynamites that are used by criminals, who are difficult to be identified during investigations.

Based on the analysis of the criminal offences occurred during 2017 in the territory of the Republic of Albania, it was observed that criminal groups are increasingly using remote control explosives to protect their activity and also to eliminate their rivals. The investigations carried out in some criminal offences have confirmed that some explosives originate from the former arsenal inherited in 1997.

Also, the investigations carried out have found that in some cases the remote detonation mechanism in these explosives was installed by people within the country.

2.3 FIREARMS TRAFFICKING METHODS

In general, based on the cases identified, firearms traffickers use the green border, by hiding weapons in vehicles, buses, trucks, cars or keep them in their body and cross the border illegally. Based on the investigated cases, it was observed that firearms trafficking is carried out in small amounts, 1-2

pieces. The identified age groups are mostly men, aged from 16-45 years old.

Based on the analysis of the operational situation and the identified cases, firearms enter the territory of Albania from the border between: Macedonia-Albania, Kosovo-Albania and Montenegro-Albania. Firearms (pistols) manufactured in the European countries and also firearms and explosives coming from the territory of Montenegro, are trafficked at this part of the border, while converted pistols are mainly trafficked from Kosovo and Macedonia. While, from the territory of Albania, through the Albania-Greece and Albania-Italy borders, perpetrators smuggle pistols and sub machine guns that were looted from the military warehouses in 1997, in Albania.

Based on the data, it was concluded that the criminal offence of firearms trafficking has decreased over the years for several reasons:

- a. The criminal activity of firearms trafficking has become a secondary activity.
- b. The profit from this activity is lower compared to other criminal activities.
- c. The severity of punitive measures for this criminal offence (amendments in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, have increased the duration of prison sentences).
- d. Albania is not a manufacturer of firearms.
- e. The geopolitical position of the country has not supported firearms trafficking since Albania is far from conflict countries.
- f. Increased effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in the country, especially of the State Police Structures.

2.4 CHALLENGES AHEAD

Special attention should be paid to the increase and strengthening of human capacities, specialists that investigate firearms trafficking and to enhance their expertise.

The firearms tracing process at international level, the integration of the national firearms registration system, called SIMA, with the systems of our counterparts.

To strengthen border controls with a focus on: enhancing the professionalism of the BCP employees and logistic support in border control by installing equipments such as scanners, detectors etc., which shall increase the safety of border controls.

To register all firearms, including those that are traded, in use, declared stolen, lost, seized in criminal offences, into a single database called SIMA. So, all these measures should serve to close the firearms cycle, starting from determining their manufacturing origin, until the end users or the final disposal of firearms.

2.5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS IN THE AREA OF FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

The international cooperation in the fight against firearms, ammunitions and explosives trafficking is considered very important, mainly in the following directions:

1. Cooperation in the area of information collection, based on which, it shall be carried out a detailed analysis of the cases and it shall be identified the presence of criminal activities related to firearms trafficking.
2. Establishment of joint investigation teams with the participation of investigators from each country where the development of firearms trafficking criminal activity is likely to occur. Instead of organizing regional operations including many countries, it would be more productive to establish joint investigation teams, to:
 - Increase information exchange quality.
 - Increase the credibility of the investigation team members.
 - Avoid bureaucratic obstacles.
 - Exchange experiences.
3. In the area of enhancing investigators professionalism on the criminal activity of firearms trafficking, where a special focus should be given to the investigations in the area of DARK NET.
4. Strengthening the Firearms Registration Database for each country and unifying them into a single International Database.



3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The structure and the content of this document are based on the following principles:

<p>CONSTITUTIONALITY AND LEGITIMACY PRINCIPLE</p> <p>the provided measures are based on the provisions set out in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, the legislation in force and international agreements.</p>	<p>NATIONAL SECURITY PRINCIPLE</p> <p>the control of SALW and explosives is part of the national security, supports the operation of the state and society based on order and law, economic competitiveness and innovation. This principle ensures the right to security and protection for all citizens, through prevention, fighting and control.</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS</p> <p>is guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and guarantees the right and fundamental freedoms, and also protects individual freedoms, personal data and identity regardless of ethnicity, sex, age, religion and sexual orientation. Children and youth have the right to live in an environment, which is protected and safe from the misuse of SALW.</p>	<p>PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>due to its complexity, the state cannot be the sole responsible for preventing, protecting and increasing awareness on the danger that poses the misuse of SALW and explosives. Therefore, different segments of the society and the private sector have responsibilities to prevent, protect and increase awareness on the danger of SALW and explosives.</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE OF ALL-INCLUSIVENESS</p> <p>it is crucial to develop a comprehensive approach to address the threats coming from SALW and explosives that are considered as a risk towards national security.</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PRINCIPLE</p> <p>the fight against illicit trafficking of SALW and explosives and the standardization of the legislation and practices can be furthered through international cooperation with partners. Through cooperation, Albania will play an important role in promoting national and regional security.</p>

4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

4.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In the area of SALW and explosives control, the Republic of Albania implements an extensive legal basis, such as:

A.	The Constitution of the Republic of Albania, as amended;
B.	Law No. 7895, dated 27/01/1995 "Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania", as amended;
C.	Law No. 7905, dated 21/03/1995 "Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Albania", as amended
D.	Law No. 9887, dated 10/03/2008, as amended by Law No. 48/2012, as amended by Law No. 120/2014 "On personal data protection";
E.	Law No. 108/2014 "On State Police", as amended;
F.	Law No. 43/2016 "On international agreements in the Republic of Albania";
G.	Law No. 71/2016, "On border control";
H.	Law No. 74/2014 "On Weapons";
I.	Law No. 72/2014 "On the use of firearms";
J.	Law No. 10253, dated 11/03/2010 "On hunting", as amended;
K.	Law No. 9126, dated 29/07/2003 "On civil use of explosives, pyrotechnic compositions and fireworks in the Republic of Albania", as amended by Law No. 10 388, dated 03/03/2011 and Law No. 73/2014;
L.	Law No. 9020, dated 06/03/2003 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania, in the "Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the purpose of detection";
M.	Law No. 9126, dated 29/07/2003 "On civil use of explosives, pyrotechnic compositions and fireworks in the Republic of Albania", as amended by Law No. 10 388, dated 03/03/2011 and Law No. 73/2014.
N.	Law No. 46/2018 "On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use";
O.	Law No. 9272, dated 16/09/2004, "On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and the implementation protocol".
P.	Law No. 6/2014, dated 30/01/2014 "On the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty"
Q.	Law No. 102/2014, "Customs Code of the Republic of Albania"
R.	Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 275 dated 01/04/2015, which approves the regulation on the weapons safety rules and conditions;

4.2 INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS

Institutional commitments imply all mechanism that have a primary and secondary role and importance in the implementation of the strategy. The institutional commitments on the drafting and implementation of the strategy are as follows:

National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons.

It is responsible for preparing the policies on small arms and light weapons in Albania. Coordinates and gathers information and statistics from respective institutions on the manufacturing, trade, deactivation, disposal, illegal use of weapons, control of legal weapons, control of the import and export of weapons. It is responsible to coordinate, guide, monitor and report the implementation of SALW related policies.

Ministry of Interior is responsible for proposing, preparing, monitoring and implementing the policies and legislation in the area of arms and explosives.

The State Police is the main institution in charge of the fight against illegal trafficking of weapons, ammunitions and explosives, in cooperation with other law enforcement institutions for preventing and detecting illegal traffickings in the border and inside Albania. The SP issues licences and authorizations on eligible weapon activities, for natural persons and legal entities in compliance with the national and international legislation. The SP exercises controls at PSC and other legal entities licensed to carry weapons, on the safety conditions for the possession of firearms.

Firearms Focal Point (FFP): the establishment of this focal point falls under the responsibility of the Minister of Interior and the General Director of the State Police. The FFP shall work to refine the forms and procedures for the registration of the data on the distribution and the impact of firearms, SALW, gender statistics and the procedures on the compulsory exchange of information with the countries of the region. The procedures on the information exchange within systems that contain data on firearms.

Ministry of Defence is responsible for the safety of military ammunition warehouses, the disposal of the surplus of weapons, ammunitions and explosives, in compliance with the NATO standards. The MoD is also an important actor in the blue border safety, assisting law enforcement institutions.

AKSHE is the responsible institution for the implementation of the state's policy in the control of exports and imports of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use. Its establishment and activity is based on Law No. 46/2018, dated 23/07/2018 "On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of du-

al-use" and on the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 43, dated 16/01/2008 "On the organisation, functioning and status of the State Export Control Authority". AKSHE is the institution that issues licences for imports, exports, transit, transshipment, brokering of military goods and dual-use goods and technologies, pursuant to Law No. 46/2018. Based on the expertise results, State Export Control Authority, identifies the goods, defines their international transfer conditions in specific countries and either issues or not the respective licences to these entities.

Also, pursuant to the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 658, dated 29/07/2015 "On determining the procedures for issuing licences for weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair", provides to entities licences for the weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair.

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs helps with special assignments to fulfil the goals of this strategy, especially in the area of cooperation between Albanian institutions with partner institutions and international organizations, international reports and entering in bilateral agreements on the end control of the weapons, ammunitions and explosives exports.

Ministry of Justice helps with activities for the necessary cooperation between the Prosecution, Interpol and foreign justice authorities in issues related to the fight against illegal trafficking of weapons. Moj is also an important actor for aligning the legal acts on weapons, ammunitions and explosives control with the EU directives and other international acts.

Ministry of Finance and Economy is responsible for planning and implementing the tasks related to legal and normative acts according to the specific directions of its subordinate institutions, serving to the prevention of illegal trafficking of weapons, ammunitions and explosives.

General Directorate of Customs is responsible to cooperate with other law enforcement structures in function of ensuring green, blue and air border safety, with the purpose of preventing and fighting the illegal trafficking of weapons, ammunitions and explosives.

Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth is responsible for drafting, pursuing and implementing the state policy on awareness-raising and education of the young generation against weapons, having in its focus schools, sports and youth centres, also considering the inclusion of the threat from weapons, ammunitions and explosives in special curricula.

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is responsible for identifying the damages caused by firearms to the health of the citizens by delivering awareness campaigns on the dangers from weapons, ammunitions and explosives.

5. STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN GOALS

The Strategy and Action Plan have the following goals:

GOAL 1	GOAL 2
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.	By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in Albania are evidence based and intelligence led.
GOAL 3	GOAL 4
By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond Albania.	By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
GOAL 5	GOAL 6
By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession, in Albania.	Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition, adhering to environmental standards.
GOAL 7	
Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.	

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.

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Continuous legislation and policy review – aims to analyse and amend the primary and secondary legislation, as well as current strategies and mechanisms, and to synchronize them with the EU legal framework. In particular, the following laws will be harmonized and complemented, such as the Law on Weapons, which will be complemented in accordance with the requirements of the EU Directive on Firearms, and the Regulation on Deactivation of Weapons; the Law on dual-use goods; the Law on civil use of explosives, which should be aligned with the relevant EU legislation, in particular with the regulation on precursors and the List of permitted explosives (UN). Also, the legislation shall be reviewed in accordance with the United Nations Protocol on Firearms, International Tracking Instrument and also the Arms Trade Treaty.

GOAL 2

BY 2024, ENSURE THAT ARMS CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN ALBANIA ARE EVIDENCE BASED AND INTELLIGENCE LED.

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Continuous improvement of law enforcement institutions' work – by paying attention to intelligence, risk analysis and establishment of the Firearms Focal Point and also strengthening the exchange of operational and strategic information, of the data and intelligence with international agencies and organisms such as Europol, Frontex, Eurojust and EMPACT.

GOAL 3

BY 2024, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES (FAE) INTO, WITHIN AND BEYOND ALBANIA.

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Strengthening border control in border crossing points and also at green and blue borders – establishing priorities and identifying needs to increase human capacities, equipments and technology for Border Police, customs and agencies for the identification, detection, analysis and investigation of weapons, ammunitions and explosives for the supervision of border control.

Strengthening cooperation with existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and exchanging best practices to fight firearms trafficking.

GOAL 4

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

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Media and awareness-raising campaigns, educating the young generation on the dangers of weapons. Awareness-raising shall be an objective of all institutions, which shall plan measures for citizen awareness, especially the youth and schools, with a larger commitment of the media and with extensive support from the embassies.

GOAL 5

BY 2024, SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FIREARMS IN ILLICIT POSSESSION, IN ALBANIA.

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Creating legal opportunities that allow for the voluntary surrender and/or legalization of weapons;
Planning and organizing campaigns for voluntary surrender of weapons;
Using the deactivation method in compliance with the EU standards and the OSCE guidelines, to reduce the illegal possession of firearms;
Increasing detection capacities to confiscate illegally possessed weapons.

GOAL 6

SYSTEMATICALLY DECREASE THE SURPLUS AND DESTROY SEIZED SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, ADHERING TO ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Continuing the good practice of disposing the surplus of weapons and ammunitions that result from periodic inventorying and confiscated weapons, in compliance with the safety and environmental standards.

With regards to this objective, Albania has already accomplished a lot by disposing completely the surplus of weapons inherited by the previous system. There are established and approved procedures for the disposal of surplus that is generated from confiscations and voluntary surrender.

GOAL 7

SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION AND DIVERSION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES.

The activities in the framework of this goal include:

Improving the weapons warehouses safety infrastructure, mainly of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence and also the controls during the legal trade of firearms to the "end user".

UNDP SEESAC through funding from the European Union has enabled the upgrade of three weapons warehouses in 2018, the State Police firearms storage locations and the evidence rooms, focusing on security conditions. There have also been donations for the upgrade of the Armed Forces warehouses and other upgrades are planned for the coming year.

6. STRATEGY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION INDICATORS

14 performance indicators will be used to measure the implementation of Goals:

1.	The number of laws on arms control in Albania, which are fully harmonized with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (the Firearms Protocol)
2.	The number of evidence-based arms control policy documents, drafted in Albania, which also address the needs of men, women, boys and girls.
3.	The number of cases, individuals and quantity of misused and trafficked firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) prosecuted and adjudicated in comparison to the number of law enforcement reports on seizures;
4.	The number of cases and quantity of FAE seized inland compared to the number of cases and quantity of FAE seized at the borders.
5.	The number of cases of FAE seized in the European Union, originating from Albania.
6.	The number of FAEs, for which export licences have been issued by Albania, identified as diverted through the post-shipment control procedure.
7.	The Firearms Focal Point in Albania already established and operational;
8.	The number of inter-institutional cooperation cases at operational level, including investigation, prosecution and pretrial phases;
9.	The number of cases of operational cooperation sourced from intelligence information including ballistic intelligence in the fight against firearms related crimes, with authorities in the region, EU member states and agencies as well as international law enforcement agencies.
10.	The number of incidents involving firearms and victims affected by the misuse of firearms, disaggregated by gender and age, in Albania;
11.	The number of FAE voluntarily surrendered, as well as firearms legalized or deactivated;
12.	The number of firearms, ammunitions and explosives reported as confiscated or surplus systematically destroyed;
13.	The number of SALW/firearms and their ammunition storage facilities in line with international safety and security standards;
14.	The percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence in Albania.

The National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons shall monitor the implementation of the Strategy every 6 months, based on these indicators.

ACTION PLAN 2019-2021

OF THE STRATEGY ON SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS, THEIR AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES CONTROL 2019 – 2024

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

KPI 1: The number of laws on arms control in Albania, which are fully harmonized with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (the Firearms Protocol);

KPI 2: The number of evidence-based arms control policy documents, drafted in Albania, which also address the needs of men, women, boys and girls.

Overall Targets	Specific Objectives	Baseline	Activities	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Budget Estimate	Source of Funding
1. Establish a complete legal framework to counter all forms of illicit possession, trafficking and misuse of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE). ↓	Approve laws and by-laws related to FAE for civil use (including on legal possession, deactivation, storage, production, retail, trade, transit, import-export, marking, non convertible weapons, tracing, record keeping and supervision) and harmonize with UN, OSCE and EU legislative framework	EU Firearms Directive; EU Deactivation Regulation; the law on weapons has no harmonized by-laws on deactivation, the by-laws on marking are completely missing; stronger scrutiny and timely adoption of secondary legislation required to ensure that it is in support of the primary legislation;	Establish working groups to amend the Law “On weapons”; Draft amendments to Law “On weapons” and their promulgation;	Ministry of Interior, State Police, Ministry of Defence Moj MoEFA AKSHE	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
		Current Law partly aligned with Directive 1991	Implementation of gap analysis through Table of Concordance and relevant PESTEL analysis;	Ministry of Interior State Police, Ministry of Defence Moj MoEFA AKSHE	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
	Approve the legal framework related to FAE for military use (including on storage, production, retail, trade, transit, import-export and supervision) and harmonize with UN, OSCE and EU legislative framework ↓	Law No. 46/2018 “On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use” has been approved in accordance with the EU directives Pursuant to Law 74/2014 “On Weapons”, DCM No. 658, dated 29/07/2015 “On determining the procedures for issuing licences for weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair” has been approved	Establish working group to approve the by-laws pursuant to Law No. 46/2018 Establish working groups to approximate DCM No. 658, dated 29/07/2015 “On determining the procedures for issuing licences for weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair”, with the EU Deactivation Regulation,	Ministry of Defence AKSHE Ministry of Justice MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑	↑	Law No. 46/2018 was drafted pursuant to the EU directive; Table of Concordance (TOC) and PESTEL analysis have been completed	Working group implements gap analysis through Table of Concordance (TOC) and relevant PESTEL analysis; for the acts to be adopted pursuant to Law 46/2018	Ministry of Defence AKSHE Ministry of Justice MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
	Draft the regulation “On Civil Use of Explosives” to ensure security requirements and oversight over the explosives producers and legal entities utilizing the explosives;	Law No. 9126 dated 29/07/2003 On civil use of explosives in the Republic of Albania”, as amended by Law No. 73/2014	Establish working group to draft laws “On civil use of explosives”; (including precursors) and “On pyrotechnic substances and fireworks”	AKSHE Ministry of Defence MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State Budget + EU through SEESAC
			Working group implements gap analysis through Table of Concordance (TOC) and relevant PESTEL analysis;	AKSHE Ministry of Defence MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
			Draft amendments to Law “On civil use of explosives” and their promulgation;	Ministry of Defence AKSHE MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
2. Ensure compatibility of arms control legal frameworks across the Western Balkans, which allows direct operational cooperation.	Harmonize weapons categorization and relevant legal framework, which contributes to direct operational cooperation	Directive 2017/853, dated 17 May 2017, of the European Parliament and Council Weapons categorization in Law 74/2014 “On weapons” should be aligned with the directive	Take part in the panoramic overview of gun related laws, criminal codes and criminal procedures codes;	Ministry of Interior, State Police, Ministry of Justice MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
			Continues review of the criminal code, in order to reflect the novelties of the European Union	Ministry of Justice Ministry of Interior MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
3. Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations.	Approximate international standards and best practices in the area of arms control and gun crime related investigations.	SALW control procedures are not fully in compliance with the determined EU and international standards and existing good practices;	Endorse regional and international standards in the field of firearms investigations.	State Police. Prosecution Office Ministry of Justice MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC

GOAL 2: BY 2024, ENSURE THAT ARMS CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN ALBANIA ARE EVIDENCE BASED AND INTELLIGENCE LED

KPI 3: The number of cases, individuals and the amount of misused and trafficked firearms, ammunitions and explosives (FAE) prosecuted and adjudicated in comparison to the number of law enforcement reports on seizures

KPI 5: The number of cases of FAE seized in the European Union, originating from Albania.

KPI 7: The Firearms Focal Point in Albania already established and operational;

KPI 8: The number of inter-institutional cooperation cases at operational level, including investigation, prosecution and pre-trial phases;

KPI 9: The number of cases of operational cooperation sourced from intelligence information including ballistic intelligence in the fight against firearms related crimes, with authorities in the region, EU member states and agencies as well as international law enforcement agencies.

Overall Targets	Specific Objectives	Baseline	Activities	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Budget Estimate	Source of Funding
1. Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms related data resulting in periodic regional FAE risk analysis and threat assessment. ↓	Establish a data collection system in all related institutions regarding distribution and impact of firearms, ammunition and explosives, with data disaggregated by gender and age	There is no methodology for gathering data to have a comparative summary of the statistical data and information.	Develop and institutionalize data collection methodology in all related institutions regarding distribution and impact of firearms, ammunition and explosives, with data disaggregated by gender and age;	State Police GDC / Office of Statistics MoD AKSHE MoHSW Prosecution Office Courts	2019 - 2021	Administrative costs	State budget + Donors
		There are no procedures for registering data on the distribution and impact of firearms, including gender sensitive data	Training on implementation of distribution and impact data collection including gender sensitive aspects	State Police GDC / Office of Statistics MoD AKSHE MoHSW Prosecution Office Courts	2019 - 2021	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
		There are no specific firearms related statistics in compliance with the requirements of international institutions.	Conduct daily firearms related data collection and periodically retrieve data;	State Police GDC Prosecution Office	2019 - 2020	Administrative costs	State budget + EU through SEESAC
	Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis ↓	There is a manual data analysis system; there is no electronic system yet.	Training on developing criminal analysis and gun crime analysis;	State Police GDC	2019-2021		State budget + EU through SEESAC

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑			Develop criminal analysis and gun crime analysis;	State Police GDC	2019 - 2021	Administrative costs	State budget & SEESAC
		Lack of integration of gender and age perspective in the effectiveness of measures on SALW crimes analysis.	Training on gender analysis of firearms data and gun crimes;	State Police	2019 - 2021	Administrative costs	EU through SEESAC
			Develop periodic risk analysis and threat assessment;	State Police GDC	2019 - 2021	Administrative costs	EU through SEESAC
		Risk profiles exist, but they are not shared among law enforcement institutions.	Increase cooperation between SP and Customs / possible agreement endorsement	State Police GDC	2019 - 2021	Administrative costs	
	Ensure exchange of operational and strategic information, data, intelligence as well as evidence with Europol, Frontex and Eurojust, Interpol	The Firearms Focal Point (FFP) is established as a virtual structure. It is necessary to establish FFP as an organic structure to identify, track and keep statistics and manage interactive programs on FAE.	Establish and operationalize the Firearms Focal Point (FFP);	State Police	2019	Administrative costs in salaries, ALL 5,000,000 per year Analytical programs Software USD 10,000 and USD 9,000	State budget EU
		Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to exchange operational and strategic information, data, intelligence as well as evidence with Europol, Frontex and Eurojust.	Adjustment of standard operating procedures (SOPs) on operational and strategic information exchange;	State Police MoJ Prosecution Office	2020	Administrative costs	
			Implement a regionally agreed procedure for exchange of ballistics' information;	State Police	2021		EU through SEESAC + specialized international agencies
	Strengthening the Firearms Focal Point capacities to support Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation.	The personnel appointed for the FFP tasks, is not trained and does not have defined duties through an approved procedure.	Conduct certified training for human resources for the FFP	State Police	2019-2020		SEESAC

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
2. Strengthen tasking, coordination and monitoring functions of the SALW Commission and Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation	Strengthen the role of SALW Commission in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the national action plan	Tasking mechanisms from the SALW Commission to all law enforcement institutions for harmonizing SALW control processes shall be pursuant to the National Strategy	Conduct regular meetings of the SALW Commission;	Ministry of Interior All member institutions in the Commission	2020	Administrative costs	State budget
			Monitoring Strategy measures for SALW and the Action Plan, according to the EU required format; based on performance indicators	All institutions in the Action Plan	2020	Administrative costs	State budget
			Conduct an Integrated Border Management Strategy analysis, for the compliances with this strategy	State Police Responsible institutions in both strategies	2021	Administrative costs	State budget
3. Institutionalize systematic collection of criminal justice data across the Criminal Justice Sector (at the level of Police, Customs, Prosecutors service, Court Service, Correctional and Penitentiary Services)	Improve response of the Criminal Justice Chain to FAE misuse, illicit possession and trafficking	An approved act on the records coordination methodology, regarding the misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of FAE, is not yet in place	Establish an inter-institutional working group (comprised of Police and Customs, Prosecutors service, Court Service, Correctional and Penitentiary Services) for developing a Track Record;	State Police Customs Service Prosecution Office GDP Courts	2019-2021	Administrative costs	State budget
			A standard document for gathering and reporting data from responsible institutions regarding the complete data management of firearms related criminal cases, is not yet in place	State Police FFP Prosecution Office GDP Courts GDC	2021	Administrative costs	State budget
			There are no periodic deadlines for submitting local structure's reports to central and international structures	State Police FFP Prosecution Office GDP Courts GDC	2021		
4. Ensure that every FAE recovered or seized is traced mandatory (domestically and internationally) ↓	Advance capacities and capabilities to mark, trace, and record-keep SALW/firearms, and ammunition ↓		Establish record-keeping technology and procedures in line with the EU Firearms Directive;	State Police	2021		

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑	↑	There is no procedure and technology, in compliance with the EU laws, on marking and tracing	Provision of marking equipment supported by donors and conduct specific trainings	State Police	2019-2021	Firearms marking equipment cost: USD 25,000	EU through SEESAC
			Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on tracing FAE,	State Police Ministry of Defence	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
			Training on identification and tracing of firearms and ammunition;	State Police Ministry of Defence GDC	2021		SEESAC
			Provide necessary technology for tracing ammunition (CartWinPro);	State Police Ministry of Defence	2021		Need for donors
		The police have access to iARMS system and it is necessary to approve the procedure	Drafting and approval of the procedure and regular input of data on lost, stolen and seized firearms, by the police service, to INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (iARMS);	State Police FFP	2021	Administrative costs	
			Getting "eTrace" access;	State Police FFP	2021	Administrative costs	
		Currently, state enterprises have manufacturing licences.	Populate the Regional FAE identification network, developed based on the information about all regional, international producers;	AKSHE Ministry of Defence	2021	Administrative costs	State budget
			Conduct assessment of marking capacities and practices at time of manufacture and post-manufacture;	MoD AKSHE	2021	Administrative costs	State budget
			Establish post-manufacture marking technology;	AKSHE Ministry of Defence	2021	Administrative costs	

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
5. Fully integrate gender and age concerns in SALW/ firearms control policies and ensure meaningful participation of women in SALW/ firearms control ↓	Increase participation of women in SALW/firearms control	Limited integration of gender and age perspective might have had a negative impact in the effectiveness of SALW control measures.	Include and consult representatives of women’s organizations, gender equality bodies and gender experts in the development and implementation of SALW/firearms control policies;	SALW Commission NGO Media	2019-2021		
		The lack of women representation impedes the involvement of gender perspective into SALW policies.	Ensure balanced representation of women in SALW commission and other relevant bodies;		2019-2021		
	Increase capacities of institutions in charge of SALW/firearms control to mainstream gender and develop gender responsive SALW/firearms policies	Need for training member institutions of SALW Commission and all other institutions in charge of SALW/firearms control policies implementation;	Conduct training on gender aspects of SALW/firearms for members of SALW/commissions and all other institutions in charge of SALW/firearms control policies implementation;	Participating institutions in the SALW Commission	2021		EU through SEESAC
	Improve institutional and policy response to the misuse of firearms in domestic and intimate partner violence	Policies, practices and identifying measures to address the misuse of firearms in domestic and intimate partner violence;	Review current legal framework to address the misuse of firearms in domestic and intimate partner violence;	MoHSW MoJ MoI	2021	Administrative costs	
	Enhance prevention of SALW/firearms misuse ↓	Lack of preventive measures to address the impact of gender roles and dominant forms of masculinity in fuelling demand and misuse of firearms, particularly among young men. Community policing officers have already been appointed and some of them are dedicated to youth and schools.	Develop and implement preventive measures to address the impact of gender roles and dominant forms of masculinity in fuelling demand and misuse of firearms, particularly among young men.	MoESY MoHSW MoI State Police	2021	Administrative costs	

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑	↑	<p>Cooperation with other law enforcement institutions such as SIS and GDC can be further improved in the area of exchanging information on the illicit trade of weapons</p> <p>The main law enforcement institutions can appoint information exchange coordinators on issues related to firearms, upon request of the State Police and after the establishment of the FFP in the State Police.</p>	<p>Prioritize the follow up of individuals and criminal groups involved in activities such as trafficking of weapons, sophisticated weapons, explosives and remote control explosives.</p> <p>Prioritize the follow up of the illicit trade of weapons, ammunition and explosives, and the activity of networks, organisations, entities or individuals involved in their manufacturing/trafficking and use for criminal and terrorist purposes.</p> <p>Follow up and outreach on the possible cooperation and links of firearms trafficking groups/networks with individuals/groups/criminal networks involved in the international trafficking and other illegal activities.</p> <p>Due and regular exchange of information between law enforcement bodies in function of timely warning and preventing this illegal activity.</p> <p>Filing high-risk people involved in the activity of trafficking weapons, sophisticated weapons and explosives.</p> <p>When other institutions identify these people and are interested in getting information or common follow up, they can use coordinators and then can exchange official information.</p>	<p>SIS</p> <p>State Police</p> <p>GDC</p> <p>AAF</p>			

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

KPI 3: The number of cases, individuals and quantity of misused and trafficked firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) prosecuted and adjudicated in comparison to the number of law enforcement reports on seizures;

KPI 4: Number of cases and quantity of FAE seized inland compared to the number of cases and quantity of FAE seized at the borders.

KPI 5: The number of cases of FAE seized in the European Union, originating from Albania.

KPI 6: The number of FAEs, for which export licences have been issued by Albania, identified as diverted through the post-shipment control procedure.

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>	
1. Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE	Increase capacities on data collection and analysis for improved detection, identification and investigation of FAE	Limited cooperation in IBM, lack of firearms detection, identification and investigation capacities. Risk analysis is not focused on firearms	Conduct training on CIRAM;	Department of Border and Migration State Police	2019 -2021		Donors	
		Methodology adopted throughout the region.	Conduct training on SOCTA methodology;	State Police AFIU (Albanian Financial Intelligence Unit) Prosecution Office	2019-2021		Donors	
	Increase the capacity of the judiciary to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate firearms related crimes.	Weak detection, analysis, identification and investigation capacities of firearms related activities		Conduct assessment of prosecution practices and procedures on firearms related crimes;	Prosecution Office Courts State Police	2020	Administrative costs	
				Develop and institutionalize the prosecution practices and procedures on firearms related crimes;	Prosecution Office Courts State Police	2021	Administrative costs	
		Low track record of prosecuted and adjudicated cases of misuse and trafficking of FAE		Conduct an assessment of adjudication practices on firearms related crimes;	Prosecution Office Courts State Police	2021	Administrative costs	
				Develop investigation strategies for the Prosecution Office	Prosecution Office	2021	Administrative costs	
	No vocational training on gender aspects regarding investigation of firearms related crimes;	Conduct training on gender aspects of firearms related crimes;	State Police Prosecution Office Donors	2020		Donors		

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
2. Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units	Increase capacities for detection, identification and investigation to prevent trafficking of FAE	Insufficient quantity of FAE detection equipment, mostly outdated, lack of detection dog breeds/FAE electronic sniffers. Lack of technological electronic equipment Low track record of prosecuted FAE cases	Develop and implement procedures on detection, analysis, identification and investigation of FAE;		2019-2021		Donors
		Need for coordinated trainings of law enforcement institutions	Conduct vocational training (including introductory and advanced) on detection, analysis, identification and investigation of FAE for law enforcement institutions (border, forensic police and customs);		2019- 2021		Donors
		Border control outside of BCP is needed, based on the analysis and condition of day and night optic devices, as well as the use of K9 dogs/electronic sniffers or even drones.	Procure equipment required for detection, analysis, identification and investigation of FAE (green border and border crossings points) based on field force analysis and equipment needs assessment; such as: - Border surveillance transport vehicles, - Day/night vision binoculars - Metal detectors - Thermal cameras - Breeding dogs for the Institute of K9 dogs Training - Jet skis and marine vessels of different capacities for blue border surveillance - SMARDEC equipment for border surveillance - Radar for blue border surveillance - Fiberscope and videoscope for performing second line checks of vehicles - Hand luggage scanner - Mobile scanner for the control of luggage in Customs - Training the Customs personnel on how to use mobile scanners - Electronic sniffer - Maintenance of abovementioned equipment	State Police Customs	2019-2021	60 million 5 million 3 million 29.5 million 90 million 405 million 25 million 4.5 million 25 million	Donors

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
3. Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency ↓	Strengthen capacities of arms export control including risk assessment, licensing, delivery and post-delivery verifications	Law No. 46/2018 "On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use"	Training of licensing officers on risk assessments, licensing and end-user certificates;	AKSHE/ Intelligence services Customs State Police MoEFA	2019-2021		Donors
		Law No. 46/2018 "On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use"	Conduct risk assessments for each transfer;	AKSHE/ Intelligence services Customs State Police MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
		Law No. 46/2018 "On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use"	Outreach for embassy personnel on delivery and post-delivery verifications;	AKSHE/ Intelligence services Customs State Police MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
		DCM No. 43, dated 16/01/2008 "On the organisation, functioning and status of the State Export Control Authority" Memorandum of Cooperation between AKSHE and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Kosovo, May 2016	Establish agreements on post-shipment verification with relevant countries;	AKSHE MoEFA MoD	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
		DCM No. 305, dated 25/03/2009 "On establishing the release procedures of the legal documents for quality assurance of the state control over the activity of import-export of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use"	Conduct post shipment verifications;	AKSHE/ Intelligence services Customs State Police MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
			Conduct training on the risk assessment of misuses of exported arms for gender based violence	AKSHE Mol GDC MoEFA	2019-2024		Donors
Ensure transparency of arms exports ↓	Law No. 46/2018 "On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use" Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 43, dated 16/01/2008	Continue the good practice of producing and publishing annual reports on arms exports, as well as periodic reports as required by international agreements;	AKSHE GDC MoEFA	2019-2021	Administrative costs		

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑	↑	Workshops with stakeholders and the public Maintain the website on procedures and legislation	Identify and develop tools required to increase transparency of arms exports;	AKSHE	2019-2021	Administrative costs	Donors
	Strengthening control and monitoring of sale and transfer of precursors		Establish supervisory mechanism for the control of sale of precursors and reporting of suspicious transfer;	GDC AKSHE	2019-2021		Donors
4. Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms	Contribute to existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and processes	Regularly contribute to the regional processes and mechanisms: SALW Commissions process, RASR, EMPACT, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC, RIEP; EU P2P; SELEC	Continue to regularly contribute to the regional processes and mechanisms: SALW Commissions process, RASR, EMPACT, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC, RIEP; EU P2P; SELEC	Ministry of Interior Ministry of Defence State Police Customs Service All institutions that are part of the Commission	2019-2021		
	Strengthen good practices to counter trafficking of firearms	Existence of regional platforms facilitating exchange of good practices of WB stakeholders at different levels.	Participate and contribute to Joint Action Days; And other operational actions led by EUROPOL	State Police GDC	2019-2021	Administrative costs	EMPACT EUROPOL PCC SEE
		Exchange information to the benefit of regional joint operations.	Participate and contribute to operations led by Interpol; SELEC, EUROPOL	State Police GDC	2019-2021	Operational costs	
		Enhance vocational qualification of human resources and exchange best experiences.	Organize and participate to TAIEX and CEPOL training courses and CEPOL; SELEC exchange programmes;	State Police GDC	2019-2021		Donors
		The police and customs information exchange centres with Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia are still in process. There are protocols in place for green border joint patrolling	Implement agreements and protocols	State Police GDC	2019-2021	Operational costs	

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

KPI 10: The number of incidents involving firearms and victims affected by the misuse of firearms, disaggregated by gender and age, in Albania

KPI 14: The percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence in Albania.

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE, including of risk of diversion for FAE producers	Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of firearms. Increase awareness of risk of diversion for FAE producers.	Lack of experience of licensed entities on the dangers of firearms	Develop and implement an internal compliance programme for licensed entities and producers	AKSHE Licensed entity	2019-2021		
1. Develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach and reach messaging multipliers	Increase level of awareness and knowledge of civil society and media on firearms misuse and illicit possession and firearms-enabled violence.	More objective reporting is needed in firearms related incidents	Organize and develop periodic workshops with civil society and media representatives on objective reporting;	MoI State Police GDC MoFE MoHSW	2019-2021		Need for support from donors
	Strengthen the cooperation of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary with media (event/incident reporting and communication).	All central institutions have information coordinators and press offices	Strengthen formal communication channels between institution communication cells and media outlets;	MoI State Police GDC MoFE Prosecution Office Courts	2019-2021		Need for support from donors
2. Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE; ↓	Increase awareness of targeted audience, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE ↓	Awareness through the Gun Crime Analysis Report of the relevant groups, based on the reported number of firearms in illicit possession.	Conduct an awareness analysis through the Gun Crime Analysis Report; Trainings on social marketing	State Police MoI GDC MoFE MoHSW	2021		Need for support from donors

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑	↑	High number of firearms related injuries and victims.	Develop and implement awareness campaigns focused on specific groups and/or targeting specific behaviours (young men, hunters, celebratory shooting, domestic and gender based violence, private security, training centres etc.);		2020-2021		Need for support from donors
		Lack of knowledge on firearms of the people wanting to obtain a firearm.	Training on gender sensitive communications;	State Police Law enforcement institutions	2019-2021		Need for support from donors
		Distance young people from the social models of firearms possession and inform them on the damages and consequences of weapons	Integrate violence reduction behaviour among youth into the education system; Planning extracurricular classes on the dangers of firearms	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth State Police MoHSW	2019-2021		Need for support from donors
3. Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all, through community-society-regional outreach activities	Increase public trust in security institutions.	There are officers dedicated to community policing. In most districts, there are Community Safety Councils.	Conduct regular surveys of community safety councils to identify local community safety needs and grievances related to firearm threats	Mol State Police Community Safety Councils	2019-2021	Administrative costs	

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

KPI 4: The number of cases and quantity of FAE seized inland compared to the number of cases and quantity of FAE seized at the borders;

KPI 11: The number of FAE voluntarily surrendered, as well as firearms legalized or deactivated;

Overall Targets	Specific Objectives	Baseline	Activities	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Budget Estimate	Source of Funding
1. Substantially increase the number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives	Increase intelligence led policing operational capacities towards illegal possession of firearms/SALW	The number of weapons in illegal possession is considered to be significant.	Collect information regarding illegal possession through analysis of open source media, use of informants and other regular information channels;	State Police Prosecution Office Intelligence Services	2019-2021	Informants reward fund	To be determined
		Developed intelligence led operations on the illicit possession of FAE;	Implement target operations based on the developed problem profiles on illicit possession of FAE;	State Police Prosecution Office Intelligence Services	2019- 2021	Operational costs	
	Improve and strengthen human and technical detection capacities of traffic, criminal, customs and border police to detect and seize FAE	Lack of FAE identification and investigation procedures for operational structures on the field.	Develop and institutionalize identification, risk profiling, detection, information sharing and reporting procedures of FAE as well as the respective training curricula;	SP GDC	2021		Need for support from donors on trainings
		Lack of training of traffic, criminal officers and customs employees on detection of FAE	Implement training on detection of FAE for traffic, criminal and customs police	State Police GDC	2019-2021		Need for support from donors on trainings
		Lack of FAE detection equipment	Provide Forensic Police and detection equipment capacities based on needs identified;	State Police GDC	2019-2021		Need for support from donors
2. Ensure that legal measures are in place allowing legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms and their implementation	Decrease the number of firearms in illicit possession through periodic legalization and FAE through voluntarily surrender	Currently, there is no amnesty on voluntary surrender.	Implement voluntarily surrender campaigns/events, based on the amnesty to be approved / discussion on incentives	All institutions that are part of the Commission	2019-2021		Need for support from donors
		All countries in the region have approved or have foreseen to approve a law on legalization. In Albania, we have not agreed yet on the necessity of such law	Start and further the debate on the need of a law on legalization, beyond the National SALW Commission	All institutions that are part of the Commission	2019-2021	Without cost	

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
3. Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal firearms possession	Increase awareness of deactivation as a means for legalization of firearms	Raise awareness of people that possess illegal firearms, on their deactivation.	Include deactivation awareness in legalization and voluntarily surrender campaigns;	State Police AKSHE	2019-2021		Need for support from donors on awareness-raising and deactivation equipment
4. Increase administrative capacities and targeted outreach to complete verification of legally possessed weapons, within envisaged legal time frame, as well as to address adequately found and inherited firearms	Increase administrative capacities to deal with verification of firearms	Need for verification and control of firearms based on Law 74/2014 "On weapons"	Equipment with digital cards	State Police	2019-2021	Estimated costs, ALL 5,000,000	Need for support
	Increase targeted awareness and information to individuals in the process of verification of firearms	Need for re-registration and control of firearms based on Law 74/2014 "On weapons"	Implement awareness activities regarding verification of firearms and categorization trainings	State Police	2019-2021		Need for support

GOAL 6: SYSTEMATICALLY DECREASE THE SURPLUS AND DESTROY SEIZED SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, ADHERING TO ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

KPI 12: The number of SALW/firearms, ammunition and explosives reported as confiscated or surplus systematically destroyed;

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
1. Systematically destroy all surplus stockpile FAE in an environmentally benign manner.	Ensure that destruction of surplus FAE is conducted on periodical basis and in line with IATG and/or other international standards	Conduct procedures based on DCM No. 138, dated 14/08/2007, 'On the procedure of handling arms, the technique and equipment of armed forces, removed from stockpile and use" as amended. Albania has destroyed all surplus stockpile inherited by the previous system	The procedures performed from removal from use to alienation/disposal of firearms and their ammunition are already identified in the Firearms and Ammunitions administration records;	State Police AF MoTE	2019-2021		
		Procedures to establish disposal method from Disposal Commission (industrial dismantling, in military factories, dismantling in shooting ranges and alienation from MEICO)	Conduct periodic destruction/disposal of FAE in certified destruction and dismantling sites and in line with the approved SOPs;	Ministry of De- fence MoTE	2019-2021	Budget allocated according to disposal needs	Need for support, where appropriate
2. Systematically destroy all confiscated FAE ↓	Systematically and publicly destroy all confiscated FAE ↓	The FAE confiscated from SP are handled with the same procedure as the other AF surplus weapons.	Follow up the procedures for taking over confiscated weapons and ammunition and destroy them in military factories.	Ministry of De- fence State Police MoTE	2019-2021	Budget allocated according to disposal needs	
		In cases where explosives are confiscated, it would be more appropriate to keep only samples in police storage facilities and destroy the rest	Start a debate on the possibilities of keeping only samples of explosives that may be unstable / current procedures analysis	State Police Prosecution Office Ministry of Justice Ministry of De- fence MoTE	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
		The ad-hoc categorization commission separates and categorizes firearms and their ammunition.	Develop plan for destruction activities	MoD MoTE	2019-2021	Budget allocated according to disposal needs	
		The commission determines and approves the destruction costs, proposed by military enterprises. Enterprises have certified dismantling technology.	Conduct periodic destruction of confiscated FAE in certified destruction sites and in line with the approved SOPs;	MoD MoTE	2019-2021	Budget allocated according to disposal needs	

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
↑	↑	Some sites are considered polluted due to the destruction of explosives and shells (hotspots).	Conduct destruction sites environmental assessment.	Ministry of Tourism and Environment Ministry of Defence MoTE	2019-2021	Operational costs	Need for measuring equipment
		The rehabilitation of hotspots in the region of Jubë-Sukth, Durrës, is on-going.	There is a plan to start the rehabilitation of hotspots in Sinanaj, Tepelenë and Qaf-Shtamë, Burrel	Ministry of Defence MoTE	2019-2021		Need for support

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

KPI 13: The number of SALW/firearms and their ammunition storage facilities in line with international safety and security standards;

Overall Targets	Specific Objectives	Baseline	Activities	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Budget Estimate	Source of Funding
1. Strengthen the capacities of relevant state institutions (armed forces, law enforcement, forest guards, customs, correctional services) to establish inspection systems and implement Life Cycle Management (LCM) of SALW and ammunition (where relevant)	Establish central inspection systems of armed forces in compliance with NATO	Established inspection systems. Established supervision body	Continue to implement AAPT1 and AAPT2	Ministry of Defence	2019-2021	Administrative costs	Support may be requested, where appropriate
	Establish central inspection systems of law enforcement institutions in compliance with IATG	There is a registration system of legally possessed weapons called SIMA, which provides the registration of all legally possessed weapons.	Registration of all legally possessed weapons	State Police	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
2. Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities, designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards	Ensure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities are safe and secure as per international standards	Evidence rooms upgrading: during 2018, a State Police firearms storage location and two evidence rooms were upgraded, through EU funds	Develop SOPs to increase safety and security of each storage location for law enforcement institutions. Identify other storage locations that need intervention	State Police	2019-2021	Training the Police on firearms and ammunition stockpile management, USD 25,000, U.S. State Department funding	Need for support
		Need to upgrade safety and security of storage infrastructure	Implement security and safety storage infrastructure upgrades based on IATG checklist for armed forces, law enforcement institutions and licensed legal entities.	MoD State Police	2019-2021	Safety and security conditions upgrade at: Police tunnel-warehouse in Mullet – USD 45,000, U.S. State Department funding MoD warehouse in Mirake – USD 285,000, U.S. State Department funding MoD warehouse in Zall Herr – USD 50,000, U.S. State Department funding Other storage facilities with projects for the upcoming years	U.S. State Department EU + Other donors through SEESAC

<i>Overall Targets</i>	<i>Specific Objectives</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Budget Estimate</i>	<i>Source of Funding</i>
3. Build the capacities of relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centres) to establish inspection systems.	Ensure that inspection systems of the legal entities are established and fully compliant with the relevant legal framework.	Determine inspection systems of natural persons and legal entities,	Develop SOPs by all licensed legal entities on inspection systems and based on the relevant legal framework;	AKSHE	2019-2021		Need for support
		Need to train personnel on inspection systems	Conduct training of relevant personnel of licensed legal entities on the inspection systems based on the SOPs;	SP GDC MoFE	2019-2021		Donors
4. Increase human resources and administrative capacities of state institutions for monitoring, oversight and evaluation of the firearms and ammunitions stocks of legal entities and individuals.	Ensure that supervision bodies have the technical and human capacities to monitor, oversight and evaluate PSSM by licensed legal entities and individuals.	Supervision bodies are in place	Conduct training of supervision body's personnel on inspection of legal entities;	SP MoI AKSHE GDC	2019-2021	Administrative costs	
		Lack of vehicles, software, safety equipment / or the existence of obsolete models	Equip the supervision body with the required capacities (vehicles, software, safety equipment) to implement oversight and evaluation.	SP MoI AKSHE GDC	2019-2021		Donors