The widespread proliferation and misuse of firearms continue to pose a grave threat around the globe. To echo the concern about the negative impact of firearms on security, human rights, as well as social and economic development, UNDP SEESAC initiated data collection in 2014 to track the firearm-related incidents in South East Europe (SEE) and established a Regional Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP).

The AVMP covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo*. The data is gathered daily from the relevant authorities’ official websites, as well as print and online media. Data for Kosovo is also gathered from daily police reports.

The present regional report builds on monthly Armed Violence Monitor Reports, and it has been prepared to provide a collection of data, show the trends, highlights, as well as threats regarding firearm incidents in SEE from October-December 2021.

Quarterly AVMP regional reports aim to serve as an information tool to research organizations and all interested parties engaged in the area of small arms and light weapons with the primary goal of providing a better understanding of the firearms’ negative impact on civilians.

*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

†Data retrieved on 12.01.2021, and updated on 01.02.2022. Given that news articles may be published after the incidents occurred or that recorded incidents can be updated with new pieces of information, the given statistics may slightly differ in the future.
QUARTERLY SNAPSHOTS

- **756** firearm incidents were observed in SEE.
- **142** incidents in the criminal context were reported.
- **36** men were killed with firearms.
- **393** weapon seizures were recorded.
- **5** women were killed in domestic violence context.
- **21** accidental shootings were recorded.
27 cases of pyrotechnic seizures were recorded. 39 women were threatened in armed robberies. Use of handguns was reported in 29 public disputes.

55 incidents of undetermined shootings were reported. Seven men committed suicide with firearms. 42 incidents related to organized crime were reported.

*Other/Unknown refer to suicides, shootings under undetermined circumstances, non-hunting related shooting of animals, explosions, weapons used for defence, and all other incidents that cannot be classified under any of the categories above.*
**NUMBER OF INCIDENTS**

The total number of incidents recorded in this quarter **decreased by 18.3%** in comparison to the previous one.

**Weapon seizures** recorded the **highest increase** from October to December, by **41%** (110 v 155).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>October 2021</th>
<th>November 2021</th>
<th>December 2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>Moldova</td>
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<td>North Macedonia</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kosovo (288), Bosnia and Herzegovina (140) and North Macedonia (87) reported the highest number of firearm incidents.

**Weapon seizures** were the **most observed** type of incident, with **393 cases** recorded, followed by incidents in the **criminal context** (142).
• **With 393 incidents reported** in this quarter, **weapon seizures** continue to be the most reported type of firearm incident in the region.

• **Yet, a decrease of 3.7%** was recorded compared to the previous quarter (408 cases).

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**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia** recorded the highest number of seizure cases during this quarter.

• **Handguns** continue to be the **most seized type of weapon**, being seized in 135 incidents (out of 392) in this quarter, and with **79 handgun seizures** reported in Kosovo.

• **With 66 seizures, explosive devices** were the second most seized type. **North Macedonia (27) and Kosovo (16)** continue to report the highest number of incidents in which explosives were seized.

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*Two most seized types of weapons in the October-December 2021 period.*
The number of incidents in the criminal context increased during this quarter, with 142 such incidents recorded. This type of incident continues to be the second most frequent, following weapon seizures.

Serbia and North Macedonia were the only two jurisdictions which reported a decrease of this type of incidents, while significant increase was recorded in Montenegro.

122 victims of incidents in criminal context were reported, of which 16 people reported as killed, 12 injured and 77 threatened.

Out of 142 incidents in criminal context, 90 incidents were related to armed robberies, which were mostly reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina (35) and Kosovo (29).

The highest number of incidents related to organized crime were reported in Albania (17).

Other refers to any incident which does not fall under robberies or organized crime, but is related to criminal context.
60 incidents of use of firearms in public disputes were recorded. This is a 24% decrease from the previous quarter.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Montenegro reported an increased number of public disputes involving firearms in this quarter.

Men were both the perpetrators and victims of all public disputes involving firearms during this quarter. For 8 perpetrators and 10 victims, sex was not reported.

The most reported outcomes for victims of public disputes were threats (28 victims), injuries (16 victims) and murders (11 victims).
From October to December 2021, there were **999 perpetrators** of firearm incidents, of which

- **16** were women
- **752** were men
- **231** sex was not reported

In incidents where **men were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly reported in incidents related to **weapon seizures (50.8%)** and in **criminal context (20.6%)**.

In incidents where **women were identified as perpetrators**, they were mostly reported in incidents related to **weapon seizures (47%)** and in **criminal context (17.6%)**.

- In incidents where age of **men perpetrators** was reported, the majority fell under the **age group of 19-35**, while majority of **women perpetrators** fell under the **36-60 age group**.

- For **556 (55.6%) perpetrators** the **age was not reported**. For **195 perpetrators** neither sex nor age was reported.

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*Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.*
From October to December 2021, there were 287 victims\(^5\) of firearm incidents, of which:

- 69 were women
- 188 were men
- 30 sex was not reported

In incidents where women were reported as victims, they were mostly related to incidents of criminal context (63.9\%) and domestic violence (29\%).

In incidents where men were reported as victims, they were mostly related to incidents of criminal context (33.8\%) and public disputes (31.2\%).

- In incidents where age of men victims was reported, the majority fell under the age group of 19-35, while women victims fell under the 36-60 age group.

- For 184 (64.1\%) victims the age was not reported. For 25 victims neither sex nor age was reported.

\(^5\) Victim refers to any individual who has been threatened, injured or died as a result of the use of a firearm/amunition/explosives.
128 reported victims were threatened with firearms, with 74 of them in armed robberies.

69 victims were injured. Most of them were injured in accidental shootings (16) and public disputes (15).

40 people were killed with firearms, of whom most were killed in incidents of criminal context (16 victims).

Seven suicides with firearms were reported in this quarter, with all victims being men.

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6 Suicide refers to all incidents in which the victim killed him/herself with a firearm.
7 Injury refers to all incidents in which an individual sustained an injury due to weapon use.
8 No injury refers to all incidents in which a weapon was discharged, but the victim did not sustain a gunshot injury.
9 Not applicable refers to all incidents in which a weapon is present but not used or discharged (for example, theft of a weapon).
• **Handguns** were reported in **264 incidents**. In 135 cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in 56 cases it was used in the criminal context.

• With **88 incidents**, **explosive devices** were the second most reported. In **66 incidents** explosive devices were seized.

• **Rifles/shotguns** were reported in **82 incidents**, mostly related to seizures (51 cases) and accidental shootings (9 cases).

• **Automatic/military grade weapons** were reported in **47 incidents**. In 27 cases, this type of firearm was seized and in 10 cases it was used in criminal context.
MACRO AND MICROLOCATION

From October to December 2021

518 (68.5%) incidents occurred in urban areas.
238 (31.5%) incidents occurred in rural areas.

Microlocation

Majority of incidents were reported

- at homes
  217 incidents

- in streets
  157 incidents

- in shops
  35 incidents