South East Europe Armed Violence Monitor

Quarterly Regional Report

July-September 2021
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 *July-September 2021*.1

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.

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

1 Data retrieved on 7.10.2021. 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.
922 firearm incidents were observed in SEE.

82 celebratory shootings were reported.

92 people were injured as a result of firearm misuse.

67 armed robberies were recorded.

257 incidents occurred in private areas (homes, apartments, yards).

20 cases of domestic violence were recorded.
Firearms were misused in **79 public disputes**.

**Handguns and gas pistols** were mostly misused in celebratory shootings.

Seven people committed **suicide** with firearms.

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2 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.
The number of incidents varied during this quarter, with July and August recording over 300 firearm incidents.

August recorded the highest number of firearm incidents in this quarter, with 334 incidents reported.

Kosovo (417), BiH (124) and Albania (113) continue to report the highest number of firearm incidents.

Weapon seizures were the most observed type of incident, with 408 seizures recorded, followed by incidents in the criminal context (126).
**MAIN TRENDS - Weapon seizures**

- **Weapon seizures** continue to be the most reported type of firearm incident in the region, with *408 seizures recorded in this quarter*.

- **An increase of 14.6%** was recorded compared to the previous quarter (356 seizures) - which is a positive trend.

![Graph showing number of recorded incidents by country and quarter](image1)

- **Most jurisdictions** recorded an increased number of weapon seizures during the reporting period, compared to the previous quarter.

![Graph showing number of incidents in which these types of firearms were seized](image2)

- **Handguns** continue to be the most seized type of weapon, being seized in 133 incidents (out of 408) in this quarter. **Kosovo** reported the highest number of handgun seizures (80).

- **With 73 seizures, explosive devices** were the second most seized type. **Kosovo (37)** and **North Macedonia (22)** continue to report the highest number of incidents in which explosives were seized.

**Two most seized types of weapons in the July-September 2021 period.**
The number of incidents in the criminal context continued to decrease during this quarter, with 126 such incidents recorded in Q3.

However, they continue to be the second most frequent type of incidents.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (37 incidents) and Albania (26 incidents) recorded the highest number of incidents in the criminal context in this quarter.

Out of 126 incidents in criminal context, the most notable were 67 incidents related to armed robberies and 42 to organized crime.

The highest number of armed robberies was recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina (23) and Kosovo (22).
• **109 incidents** were recorded in the category of Accident, hunting and celebratory shooting. This is a significant increase since the previous quarter when 29 such incidents were recorded.

![Graph showing the number of recorded incidents across regions and months.](image)

- With the exception of Kosovo, the number of incidents in this category remained stable across the region.

![Graph showing the number of accidental, celebratory, and hunting incidents.](image)

- The number of accidental and celebratory shootings was significantly high in July and August.

- Kosovo recorded 79 celebratory shootings (out of 82 recorded in the region).
Out of 1083 reported perpetrators, 838 were men and 13 were women. For 232 perpetrators sex was not reported. Men accounted for 98.5% of all perpetrators, whose sex was reported. In incidents where age of perpetrators was reported, the majority fell under the age group of 36-60, followed by the 19-35 age group. In 659 cases perpetrators were reported as caught (out of 922 recorded incidents).

Out of 309 reported victims, 234 were men and 52 were women. Sex was not reported for 23 victims. Women were mostly victims of incidents in the criminal context (50%) and domestic violence (23%), out of all incidents in which women were identified as victims. Men were mostly reported as victims of incidents related to public disputes (38%) and criminal context (20.5%), out of all incidents in which men were identified as victims. In incidents where age of victims was reported, the majority fell under the age group of 19-35, followed by the 36-60 age group.

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3 Perpetrator refers to any individual who has used a firearm/ammunition/explosive to commit any of the types of incidents covered by the AVMP.

4 Victim refers to any individual who has been threatened, injured or died as a result of the use of a firearm/ammunition/explosives.
**OUTCOME FOR VICTIMS**

119 reported victims were threatened with firearms, with 53 of them during armed robberies.

92 victims were injured. Most of them were injured in public disputes (30).

36 people were killed with firearms, of which 7 women were killed in domestic violence incidents.

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

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5 Suicide refers to all incidents in which the victim killed him/herself with a firearm.

6 Injury refers to all incidents in which an individual sustained an injury due to weapon use.

7 No injury refers to all incidents in which a weapon was discharged, but the victim did not sustain a gunshot injury.

8 Not applicable refers to all incidents in which a weapon is present but not used or discharged (for example, theft of a weapon).
In **529** (57.3%) incidents, the firearms used were in *illegal possession*, while in **26** (2.9%) cases they were in *legal possession*. In **367** (39.8%) incidents the type of possession was not reported.

- **Handguns** were reported in **288 incidents**. In **133** cases, this type of firearm was seized, while in **35** cases it was used in shootings under undetermined circumstances.

- With **97 incidents**, **explosive devices** were the second most reported. In **73 incidents** explosive devices were seized.

- **Rifles/shotguns** were recorded in **84 incidents**, mostly related to seizures (36 cases) and in incidents in criminal context (12 cases).

- **Gas pistols** were reported in **68 incidents**. In **29** cases, this type of firearm was used in celebratory shootings and in **17** cases it was seized.

Please note that the graph represents the number of incidents in which four most reported types of weapons were used. During this quarter, in 19% of all reported cases the type of firearm was either unknown or not reported.
In total there were 654 firearm incidents recorded in urban areas, accounting for 71% of all reported incidents, while 268 incidents were reported in rural areas.

The exact microlocation was identified in 592 firearm incidents (or in 64.2%), while it was not reported in 330 such cases (or 35.8%).

More precisely, majority of firearm incidents took place at home (223) and in the street (189).