

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS CONTROL STRATEGY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



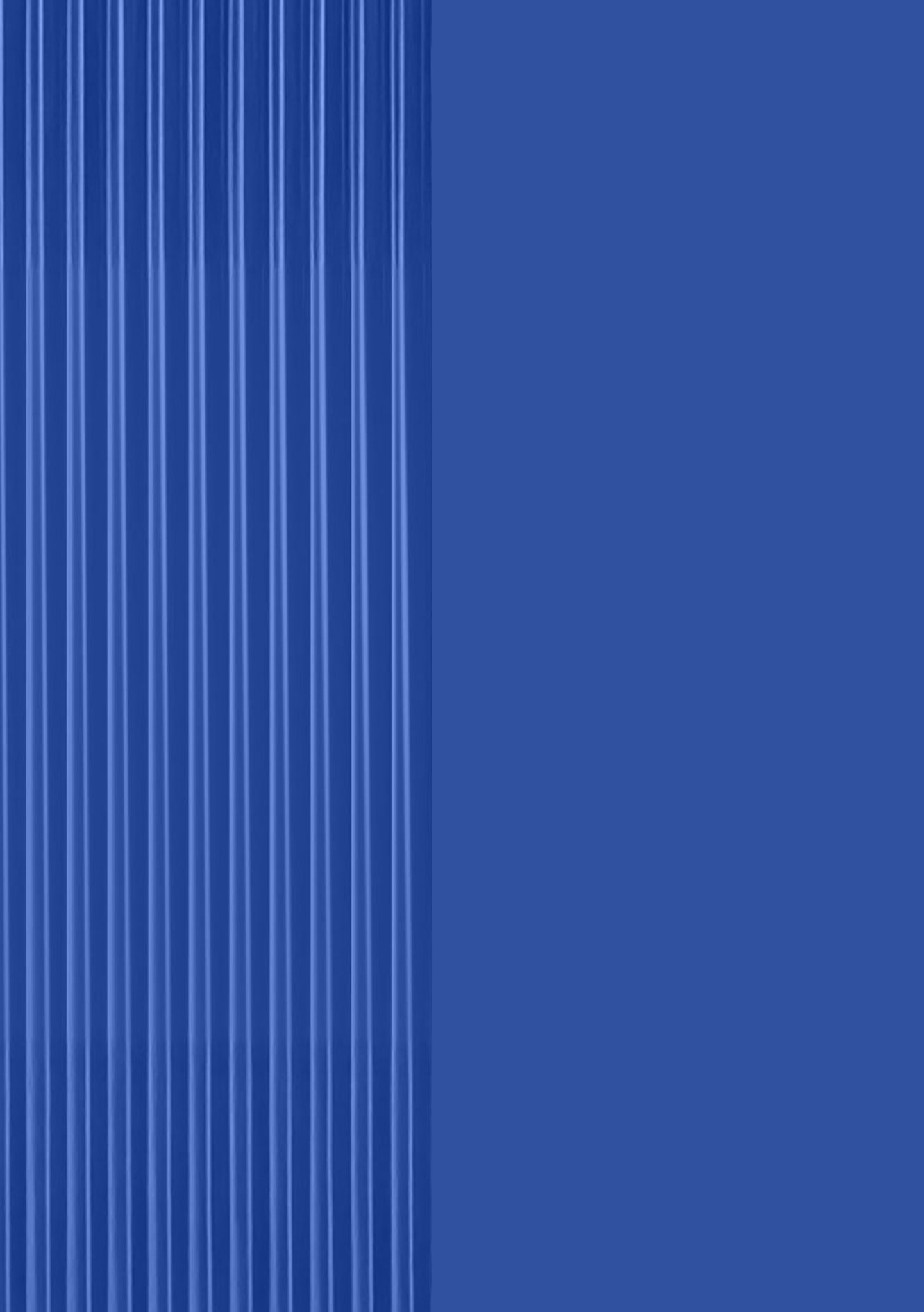
2025-2030

The 2025–2030 Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina was developed by the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with representatives of the relevant authorities involved in the implementation of the strategic goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Strategy was drafted with the support of the Regional Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (hereinafter, SEESAC), and in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter, OSCE), United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter, UNDP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Delegation of the European Union/European Union Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The opinions and views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of UNDP, SEESAC, OSCE or other international partners.

The terms used in the Strategy are provided in a single grammatical gender for the sake of clarity and apply to both men and women without discrimination.



MISSION

Competent bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina are committed to enhance the response in reducing the risks from misuse and proliferation of weapons, ammunition and explosives, in coordination with all involved parties, contributing thus to the security of citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond.

VISION

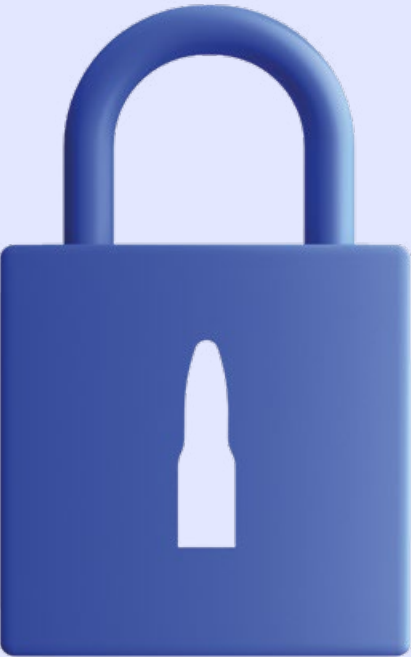
Bosnia and Herzegovina is a safer society where comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms are in place to identify, prevent, control and prosecute the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives. The above mechanisms are in line with United Nations and European Union standards and other international standards and best practices.

Definition of small arms and light weapons – SALW

“Small arms and light weapons means any man-portable weapons, made or adapted to military specifications for the use of lethal instruments of war. Small arms are broadly categorised as weapons intended for individual use by members of the armed or security forces, including revolvers and self-loading pistols; rifles and carbines; sub-machine guns; assault rifles; and light machine guns, as well as short-barrelled and long-barrelled firearms and ammunition, which are intended for self-defence, hunting and sport, and are permitted to be acquired, possessed and carried in accordance with the laws of BiH. Light weapons are broadly categorised as those weapons intended for use by several members of the armed or security forces serving as a crew.

They include, inter alia, heavy machine guns, hand-held and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems, portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, and mortars of a calibre of less than 100 mm.

BACKGROUND



On the basis of the United Nations Programme of Action (2001)¹, as well as other international documents in this domain, in particular the Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 31 May 2001 and coming into effect on 3 July 2005), the Arms Trade Treaty, the OSCE Small Arms and Light Weapons Paper (adopted in 2000 and reissued in 2012),² and later on the Western Balkans Roadmap Bosnia and Herzegovina has proceeded to address these issues systematically through the adoption and implementation of the first Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy for 2006 to 2012, the second Strategy for the period 2013 to 2016, subsequently for the period 2016 to 2020, and the most recent Strategy for the period 2020 to 2024. The objectives of these strategies were in line with the EU's Strategies for Combating Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Accompanying Ammunition from 2005³ as well as the EU's Action Plan on illicit trafficking in firearms 2020-2025.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted important international agreements related to countering organised crime and illegal arms trafficking. Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime on 24 February 2002 and acceded to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition on 1 April 2008. Further, Bosnia and Herzegovina has also signed and ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (hereinafter, ATT), which is a global treaty that establishes the highest international standards for the import, export or transfer of conventional arms.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, the issue of control of small arms and light weapons (hereinafter: SALW) ranks high on the security scale, primarily a result of the large quantity of weapons retained from the conflict that occurred in its territory and given the emergence of new forms of firearms related to criminality both in the region of South East Europe and beyond, in the European Union Member States.

According to the Organised Crime Threat Assessment in BiH, it is evident that the trend from the previous assessment continues to exist in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with large quantities of weapons left over from the conflict period, and that these are also smuggled and illegally sold on the EU market, where there is an increase in demand on the black market from persons associated with organised crime and terrorism. There is a trend of decreasing the total quantities of weapons in illegal possession on the black market for weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina; hence, it is expected that there will be changes in the modus operandi, in the sense that certain OCGs will attempt to trade in converted alarm weapons as well as other types of weapons. Registration of this type of weapon should be more rigorously addressed in the Laws on Weapons to prevent this. Due to the above and the fact that the arms trade allows for the amassing of enormous and quick financial profits, it is estimated that arms trade will remain one of the areas of activity of OCGs in the coming period.

1 United Nations Paper A/CONF.192/15, New York, July 2001.

2 OSCE SALW Paper FSC.DOC/1/00, November 2000; OSCE Decision FSC.DEC/3/12, June 2012.

3 The 2005 EU Strategy to Combat the Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition and the 2018 EU Strategy to Combat the Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition.

In response to the threat of proliferation and misuse of weapons, ammunition and explosives throughout the region, the *Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition in the Western Balkans* (hereinafter, the Roadmap) was developed and adopted under the auspices of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Government of the Republic of France, the European Union, the Regional Cooperation Council and the governments of the Western Balkan countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Roadmap defined clear goals, overall targets and timeframes covering all functional fields of arms control. By endorsing the Roadmap, Bosnia and Herzegovina has demonstrated its full commitment to establishing a comprehensive SALW control framework. Bosnia and Herzegovina developed an Action Plan for the implementation of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy, which took into consideration, among other, the goals defined in the Roadmap.

The 2025–2030 Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter, the Strategy) provides an overall platform for commonly agreed objectives and outlines the commitment required at the strategic, policy and operational level by all the relevant institutions. This builds on the political commitment to the implementation of the regional Revised Roadmap 2030, which aims to continue and reinforce the commitment by the region towards the fulfilment of the Roadmap goals.

The Strategy builds upon the activities aimed at further strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of all stakeholders within the domain of SALW control in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is aimed at the continued harmonisation of country's legislation with the EU *acquis* and its compliance with the UN Firearms Protocol; further advancement of control over the internal and foreign trade in arms and ammunition; preventing and countering illicit trafficking and misuse of weapons, ammunition and explosives. It is also aimed at further reducing the number of incidents caused through the use of firearms and in the number of weapons in illicit possession by citizens in this country. This will improve civic trust in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels of government. It also aims to reduce the amount of surplus SALW in the possession of the Ministry of Defence/Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and improve the security conditions of weapons and ammunition storages of Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Special attention is given to strengthening the overall administrative and investigative capacities of the relevant competent bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to preventing and countering illicit possession and trafficking of SALW. Through implementation of the projected strategic goals and strengthening of international and regional cooperation in this area, Bosnia and Herzegovina will contribute not only towards improvement of general security within the country but also the region as well as globally.

Implementation of strategic priorities from this document will contribute to fulfilling some of the key requirements in the European Union accession process, which are listed in the new European Commission Strategy *A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement in the Western Balkans*, the accompanying Action Plan to support transformation of the Western Balkans, the European Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for EU membership and the accompanying Analytical Report, and the European Commission's annual reports for BiH.

The EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition that was adopted in November 2018 places special emphasis on the Western Balkans. This Strategy reads that the EU will maintain cooperation with relevant regional organisations in the field of SALW control and will take into account regional initiatives such as the Roadmap. The EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking, adopted in July 2020, also recognises the importance of the Western Balkans Roadmap integrating its implementation and the Key Performance Indicators.

The Strategy was initiated by the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as an expert interinstitutional body established by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Implementation of the previous SALW control strategies delivered significant results, as reported to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina annually by the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Coordination Board reports regularly to the United Nations, in accordance with the Plan of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), the OSCE and the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty on progress in the control of SALW in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The SALW Coordination Board has submitted regularly biannual reports based on the common Key Performance Indicators and the Goals of the Western Balkans Roadmap. These reports provide a comprehensive overview of the progress, challenges, plans but also expert and financial support provided in the implementation of the SALW Control Strategy in line with the priorities set in the Action Plan. They have also contributed significantly to the transparency of processes and leadership in this domain as well as to international recognition of efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this area. Such efforts were also recognised among the key findings of the Mid-Term Review of the Western Balkans Roadmap.

In cooperation with the competent authorities in BiH at the state, Entity, cantonal and Brčko District levels, the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH will develop an Action Plan for the implementation of the document, with goals and specific indicators to measure progress achieved in BiH.

KEY DELIVERABLES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2021-2024 STRATEGY



Most activities set out in the Action Plan were implemented during the delivery period of the previous strategy, most important being:

- ▶ **A total of 6,004 small arms and light weapons and 12,193 pieces of ammunition were destroyed;**
- ▶ **Successful cooperation in place with international organisations UNDP, UNODC, OSCE, NPA and others dealing with small arms and light weapons control issues;**
- ▶ **Meetings were held within the Regional Network of SALW Commissions as well as SEEFEN;**
- ▶ **Advanced and furthered cooperation at the operational and strategic level between law enforcement agencies, judicial and other institutions within BiH and institutions from BiH and neighbouring countries;**
- ▶ **Through CIAT, HALT, DIRC and LEAD projects implemented by UNDP BiH, capacities of police authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ITA were improved through organisation of 21 joint exercises of all police authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ITA and three international joint exercises with the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro;**
- ▶ **Support for the preparation and publication of regional reports on the actual number of weapons and military equipment imported or exported continued.**
- ▶ **Analyses and assessments of the legal frameworks for SALW control developed.**
- ▶ **The Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the Report on the work of the Working Group for alignment of weapons and ammunition regulations and alignment with the EU acquis.**
- ▶ **The relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted laws on weapons and ammunition with a view to harmonising them with the EU acquis.⁴ Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Posavina Canton (Official Gazette of the Posavina Canton, No. 4/18, 11/22), the Law on Acquisition, Possession and Holding of Weapons and Ammunition of the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton (Official Gazette of the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, No. 10/17, 16/23) and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Tuzla Canton (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, No. 17/15, 5/16, 17/17, 8/20, 19/21 and 19/22), the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Una-Sana Canton (Official Gazette No. 15/21 and 16/22);**
- ▶ **Statistics on weapons in legal possession by citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina were collected in support of monitoring annual trends.**
- ▶ **A total of 27 (twenty-seven) storage facilities and evidence rooms in police agencies where small arms and light weapons are stored were reconstructed;**
- ▶ **Police operations resulted in the collection of significant quantities of illicit weapons;**
- ▶ **487 tons of ammunition and mines and explosive devices were disposed of;**
- ▶ **The activity of marking weapons in the Armed Forces of BiH, as well as in the Police of the Brčko District of BiH and the Ministry of Interior of the Posavina Canton was completed, and activities were also initiated in the Ministry of Interior of the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde, the Ministry of Interior of the Zenica-Doboj Canton and the Ministry of Interior of the Canton 10.**

4 Directive (EU) 2021/555 of the European Parliament and Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE PERIOD 2025 – 2030



The Strategy defines four strategic goals for improved SALW control in Bosnia and Herzegovina, more specifically:

1. **Harmonise legislation in the field of weapons, ammunition and explosives with the EU acquis and other relevant international commitments.**
2. **Reduce the misuse, illegal possession, manufacture, trade and proliferation of weapons, ammunition and explosives.⁵**
3. **Ensure safe management of SALW and ammunition in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
4. **Strengthen regional and international cooperation in enhancing arms control including with civil society organisations.**

RESULTS DELIVERED BY STRATEGIC GOALS FROM 2021 TO 2024 AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE PERIOD 2025 TO 2030

1. **Harmonise legislation in the field of weapons, ammunition and explosives with the EU acquis and other relevant international commitments.**

Under this strategic goal, a need has been acknowledged to monitor activities aimed at harmonisation of key relevant laws and bylaws on the possession and carrying of weapons in BiH with that of the relevant European Union legislation. The Strategy also recognises the need to align with the provisions of articles of the UN Firearms Protocol, as well as to strengthen interagency cooperation in the field of implementing legislation regarding the control of internal and external trade in weapons for the purpose of adequate exchange of information and positions on issues within the competence of various institutions involved in the arms trade.

After signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Community and its Member States (Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina, International agreements, Nos. 10/08, 1/17 and 8/17), Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook to align its existing and future legislation and to ensure that the aligned legislation is properly implemented and enforced by the end of the transition period of six years starting from the date that of entry of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement into force.

There are 12 laws in force in BiH that regulate the area of firearms and ammunition for civilian use, adopted based on the constitutional competences of the Republika Srpska, ten cantons and the Brčko District of BiH, and these are partially harmonised with EU directives on control of acquisition and possession of weapons. However, adequate harmonisation with the European Union *acquis* requires additional alignment by competent institutions.

5 Explosives means substances and articles which are considered to be explosives according to the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and which fall into Class 1 in accordance with these recommendations. Source: Directive (EU) 2014/28

During implementation of the 2021–2024 strategy, the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously coordinated the harmonisation of the legislation in this field and cooperated with the relevant domestic authorities and international partners. This will remain one of the areas of work that will be prioritised in the forthcoming period.

In all activities of harmonisation of legislation, the Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of BiH, in addition to the competent Entity and cantonal institutions, also played an active role, through active advisory assistance and preparation of instruments for harmonisation. During the period of validity of the Strategy, seminars on this topic were held, where international regulations in this area and ways of incorporating regulations into the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Entities, cantons and the Brčko District of BiH were presented.

Assessment of level of harmonization of the legal framework with the EU *acquis* is finalised. The laws on weapons and ammunition in BiH have been adopted and are partially harmonised with the EU Firearms Directive (Directive 555/2021). Drafting of laws on weapons and development/ amendment of relevant supporting legislation including on deactivation, marking of firearms, alarm and signal weapons, pyrotechnic materials, civil use of explosive is still ongoing. New regulations should be developed according to the recommendations from the Report on the work of the Working Group for the Harmonization of Regulations on Weapons and Ammunition in the country and with the EU *acquis*.

There is a partial legal framework that regulates explosive precursors (RS Mol, ITA, FBIH Police Administration and certain cantons).

An analysis to assess the compliance with UN Firearms Protocol of the four criminal codes in BiH (State level, Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brčko District) has been conducted identifying the gaps and providing concrete recommendations for amendments.

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina also regularly take part in regional meetings on harmonisation with the EU *acquis* supported by SEESAC, which serve as a platform for representatives of various institutions and a discussion on updated information on harmonisation of legislative frameworks on firearms and civilian use of explosives and pyrotechnics with the European Union *acquis* within their jurisdictions.

The European Commission 2023 Report on BiH⁶ (Chapter 24) reads:

Bosnia and Herzegovina should demonstrate results in implementing the 2021-2024 strategy and action plan for the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Bosnia and Herzegovina is aligned with the actions within the EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking, which correspond with the goals of the Regional Roadmap to better control SALW in Western Balkans. Bosnia

6 <https://www.dei.gov.ba/bs/expansion-pack>

and Herzegovina progressed well on activities to improving firearms detection capacities and destruction of firearms. More efforts should be done to investigate firearm-related crimes, in particular establishing the firearms focal point, which is still at an impasse. Legislation on the possession of weapons by civilians needs to be harmonised and further aligned with the EU *acquis*, including on marking and deactivation standards. The legislative framework on explosives for civil use and the transport of dangerous goods remains fragmented and needs to be completed and aligned with the EU *acquis* across the country.

During the implementation period of the Strategy, Bosnia and Herzegovina will work towards accessing the WASSENAAR Arrangement.

In the coming period, Bosnia and Herzegovina is to conduct the following activities related to this strategic goal:

- ▶ Update the tables of concordance of legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with that of the EU and other international legal frameworks in the field of weapons, ammunition and explosive control;
- ▶ Continue the development of legal framework as relevant and continue harmonisation of the legislative and the administrative frameworks related to weapons, ammunition and explosive control and their full implementation;
- ▶ Strengthen the capacities to control the legal trade of conventional arms and ammunition.

2. Reduce the misuse, illegal possession, manufacture, trade and proliferation of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The European Commission 2023 Report on BiH (Chapter 24) reads:

“There has finally been progress in implementing the 2017 agreement on operational and strategic cooperation with Europol. In June 2023, the contact point was put into operation and a liaison officer was deployed in July 2023 by Bosnia and Herzegovina to Europol in the Hague. This is an important step. Until then, exchange of information with Europol continued to take place through a unit in the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose mandate had expired, and with which the Republika Srpska Entity had suspended operational cooperation. Making the Europol contact point fully operational enabled the resumption of direct cooperation between Europol and all police bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, allowing the latter to make use of Europol’s services and operational tools. Messages were exchanged through the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) system. The roll-out of SIENA across the country should continue. In 2022, the number of new cases opened based on cooperation with Europol was 1,165 (1,022 cases in 2021). Messages exchanged through the Europol channel in 2022 amounted to 8,573 (4,721 received and 3,852 sent). Bosnia and Herzegovina’s use of Europol products and services has been very limited during the reporting period, but is expected to grow with the start of operation of the Europol contact point.”

Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).

In 2023, the country committed to participating in 12 operational actions (eight in 2022). Bosnia and Herzegovina also appointed the Europol contact point coordinator as national EMPACT coordinator. Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to participate in EMPACT joint action days.

“On arms control, a total of 1,234 weapons, 49,889 pieces of ammunition, 31 pieces of other mine-explosive devices and 10.8 kg of explosives were seized in 2022 (against 1,396, 14,009 and one in 2021). Also, 2,609 pieces of weapons and weapons parts were destroyed (compared to 1,792 in 2021, 1,864 in 2020 and 3,479 in 2019). In 2022, there were 236 orders to investigate firearms related criminal offences – illegal manufacture, possession, and trafficking – (317 in 2021) involving 273 suspects (340 in 2021). In 2022, 208 indictments were filed against 233 defendants (respectively 276 and 298 in 2021), leading to 217 convictions (223 in 2021), 35 prison sentences (23 in 2021), 22 fines (32 in 2021) and 160 suspended sentences (168 in 2021) with 235 convicted (239 in 2021). Bosnia and Herzegovina still needs to establish a firearms focal point. Criminal codes are not yet aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol. Bosnia and Herzegovina stands out with the relatively high number of voluntarily surrendered firearms. The SEESAC Armed Violence Reporting Platform recorded 506 incidents (567 in 2021) related to firearms in 2022.”

Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse and illicit manufacturing, possession of SALW, ammunition and explosives through improved procedures, equipment and training.

During the implementation period, in support to combating the threat posed by the illicit proliferation and trafficking of SALW in and from South East Europe, which is also an essential part of the *Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans* and EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking 2020-2025, a detailed Needs Assessment of capacities of relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to counter misuse and illicit trafficking of firearms was done by SEESAC in 2021 with the support of EU.⁷

The Needs Assessment was a basis for a comprehensive support in development/revision of standard operating procedures, provision of needed equipment and thematic trainings for criminal police officers to further enhance detection and investigation of illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW.

A workshop on the development of Standard Operating Procedures in the field of small arms and light weapons control and the sharing of best practices in the establishment of the Firearms Focal Point(s) was organised for competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2022, followed by tailor-made trainings for relevant authorities in BiH and SIPA on detection, risk

⁷ Within the EU Council Decision on support to the Regional Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans (JFCP) 2018/1788.

analysis, firearms related investigations and emergency situations, aimed at enhancing the authorities' capacities to counter trafficking, misuse, and illicit possession of firearms.

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina regularly took active part in several regional meetings dedicated to transfer of knowledge and information exchange on illicit trafficking of firearms facilitated by SEESAC like SEEFEN, regional meeting of border police and customs representatives, regional meetings of criminal police representatives and regional meetings of Firearms Focal Points.

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina also took part in several tailor-made trainings in the area of firearms related investigations, including online investigations and capacity building of ballistic laboratories and CSI units organised by SEESAC in 2022 and 2023 such as the Regional Training on Critical Thinking Skills and Analytical Capacities, the Regional Training on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), the Cyber Patrolling Workshop, the Training on gender analysis and gender-sensitive data collection, the Regional Workshop on Crime Scene Investigation, the Regional Meetings on Knowledge and the Best Practice Exchange in the Field of Ballistic Examination and Ballistic Intelligence, the Regional Training on Social Media Intelligence, the Workshop on Intelligence Collection of the Firearms Focal Points in support of EMPACT Joint Action Days, the Regional Workshop on Intelligence Collection in support of the implementation of the EMPACT Joint Action Days in Southeast Europe.

Both Border Police and Indirect Taxation Authority have provided their inputs for the Handbook on firearms for border guards and customs developed by FRONTEX with the support of SEESAC and have taken part in the meetings dedicated to finalisation of the Handbook and tailor-made trainings organised also by SEESAC and FRONTEX.

From 2021 to 2024, OSCE supported capacity building of law enforcement K9 capabilities to detect SALW and ammunition at up to 11 sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, this support included development of procedures for the operation of K9 units, training and the procurement of equipment.

On 20 December 2023, the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the Report on the work of the Working Group for the establishment of firearms focal point(s) in BiH. Firearms focal point(s) are appointed within the competent police authorities. The plan is to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding between the competent authorities.

Reduce the risks of proliferation through destruction of confiscated weapons, ammunition and explosives and improving the security of law enforcement storages.

During the implementation period of the Strategy, the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with all police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina and through the support and efforts of the European Union, UNDP and the Regional Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), implemented activities for the disposal of seized and collected SALW.

Thus, 1,972 pieces were destroyed in 2021, in 2022 2,609, in 2023 1,423 pieces of weapons and weapon parts and 12,123 pieces of ammunition. During these events, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina were warned about the threat posed by surplus weapons and poorly secured or illicit weapons and the impact that they can have on their safety. The implementation of all these activities has made a significant contribution towards improving overall stability both in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the region and beyond.

The collection and disposal of the aforementioned quantity of SALW was a result of successful efforts of all police agencies and bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina in combating the illicit trade in weapons.

The capacities for the storage of SALW owned by the police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been improved significantly. Situational analyses were developed, including assessments on how to improve the conditions, in order to create a safe environment for the citizens.

During the period of the Strategy implementation, police warehouses and evidence storage rooms were reconstructed in most police agencies and law enforcement institutions. This significantly improved the working conditions of police officers. Implementation of these activities will continue over the forthcoming period in line with international standards.

Ensure that arms control policies and practices are evidence based and gender mainstreamed.

During the 2021–2024 implementation period, the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina also worked on the collection of statistical data on legally registered weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This activity is significant as there are 12 laws on weapons in BiH, which accounts for the difference in data-keeping and methodological approaches.

Total number of registered weapons for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

	2021.	2022.	2023.
F BIH	195.268	218.442	224.586
RS	123.321	126.431	127.484
BD BIH	3.727	3.819	3.828
TOTAL in BIH	324.316	348.692	355.888

The state and the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not yet developed a methodology for compilation of statistics on SALW in line with international standards. Development of such a methodology is one of the most important factors for the successful monitoring of trends within the domain of SALW, which is one of the prerequisites for successfully combating the illicit trade in weapons. To this end, it is necessary to align bylaws on records keeping to ensure that data is recorded in line with international standards and disaggregated according to gender and age.

Based on the data obtained from the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform, the total number of firearm-related incidents/events⁸ in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2021 to 2023 amounted to 1,609, indicating an 8% rise compared to the period from 2017 to 2019. The number of incidents peaked in 2021 (571 incidents), followed by a decline in the subsequent years (508 in 2022 and 530 in 2023).

The increase in firearm incidents during 2021-2023 primarily resulted from a rise in weapon seizures, constituting the most frequently reported type of incident, accounting for 35% of all firearm incidents. This represents a shift from the trend observed during 2017-2019, where criminal firearm incidents dominated.

During the 2021-2023 period, firearm incidents in the criminal context ranked as the second most prevalent type, totalling 502 incidents (31% of all incidents). Among these, armed robberies accounted for over half of the criminal incidents, with a noticeable decrease from 145 cases in 2021 to 66 cases in 2023. In this period, 123 incidents associated with organized crime were reported, with an upward trend from 31 cases in 2021 to 63 cases in 2023, primarily linked to drug trafficking. Additionally, 52 firearm thefts were documented.

The data also recorded 153 undetermined shootings and 76 undetermined explosions, along with 78 public disputes involving the use of firearms and 26 incidents related to domestic violence.

Regarding the type of weapons involved, handguns were most frequently reported, that is, in 561 cases, followed by explosive devices (158 cases), rifles/shotguns (143 cases), and automatic/military-grade weapons (114 cases).⁹ Additionally, 211 incidents involved multiple types of SALW. Furthermore, when the legal status of weapon possession was specified, 96% of cases involved illegal possession of firearms, whereas weapons in legal possession were indicated in 4% of cases.

As a consequence of firearm incidents during 2021-2023, there were 714 victims reported, including 359 women and 174 men, when the sex was specified. Seventy people (53 men and 16 women) were killed, while 50 (47 men and three women) died by suicide. Moreover, 135 people (106 men and 13 women) were injured due to firearm incidents. A total of 374 people (139 women and 105 men) were threatened with firearms.

Most women were killed with firearms in domestic violence context, mainly perpetrated by intimate partners, whereas men were predominantly killed in public disputes, accidental shootings, criminal incidents, and undetermined shootings.

Out of 2,324 perpetrators, men account for 97% of perpetrators in contrast to 3% of women. When the age was known, most perpetrators were aged 19 to 35, followed by those aged 36 to 60.

8 In the context of firearms, the term **incident** encompasses all situations (cases/events) in which a weapon is used or is being used, whether intentionally or unintentionally, or is present, and which may result in death, injury, and/or property damage, as well as have psychological consequences for individuals and communities.

9 Data generated from the SEESAC platform - Armed Violence Monitoring Platform and from print and electronic media.

The collected data indicates that the gender perspective plays an important role in understanding the distribution of and demand for firearms as well as the specific risks related to firearms abuse faced by women and men.

Gender mainstreaming into strategic and operative frameworks is increasingly recognised as a prerequisite for the efficient control of SALW. The EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition stresses that the integration of gender considerations into SALW control projects and actions is a guiding principle of the EU strategy and that the EU will systematically mainstream gender considerations into the design of new projects relating to the fight against armed violence and SALW control in general.

Also, one of the conclusions of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Review the Implementation of the UN PoA encourages signatory States to integrate a gender perspective into their reports on the implementation of the UN Plan of Action.

The Roadmap places specific importance on the advancement of gender equality and calls for full integration of gender and age concerns in SALW/firearms control policies and meaningful participation of women in SALW/firearms control.

Accordingly, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the coming period will continue with efforts on gender mainstreaming in SALW control measures. Gender mainstreaming and its implementation through the action plan will be carefully monitored and evaluated as a key element for achieving a more sustainable and more efficient result. Special focus will be placed on measures related to the prevention of weapons abuse in domestic violence cases, improving availability of gender statistics and use of gender analysis, and strengthening the capacities of the relevant institutions to design and implement gender responsive measures and increase the participation of women in SALW control.

Increase awareness of citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the dangers of misuse and illicit possession of firearms

Relevant authorities have conducted activities aimed at strengthening citizen awareness on the misuse of SALW. Implementation of such activities is important as it helps combat the illicit trade in weapons, which does not only rely on repressive measures but also preventive action.

In BiH, a broader awareness-raising campaign was organised with the support of UNDP, aimed at further enhancing security within and beyond the Western Balkans. Awareness-raising was conducted through targeted actions aimed at improving the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to raise awareness among the population on responsible possession of small arms and light weapons (SALW), understanding the dangers of illegal possession of firearms, and education on recognising individual and collective threats to the security of citizens.

The aim was to contribute to a change in behaviour in understanding the threats posed by SALW within families, communities and society in general. Ultimately, the aim was to raise awareness through structured campaigns across the country, field activities and advocacy that address

the threats and consequences posed by illicit SALW for the wider public, especially vulnerable groups (women, children, young men).

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina regularly take part in biannual Regional meetings of the Awareness Raising Task Force facilitated by SEESAC, aimed to contribute to the strategy inclusive of wider awareness-raising activities on strengthening of institutional capacities for conducting effective awareness-raising efforts in all their segments, including design, management, monitoring, and evaluation, through networking, exchange of information, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, as well as through coordination of and collaboration on awareness-raising activities.

Representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina also took part in several trainings on awareness raising organised by SEESAC in 2022 and 2023 such as the training on the key steps in designing and implementing the campaign, the training on available methods and tools for monitoring and evaluation, training on crisis communication, joint trainings for representatives of Ministries of Interior and law enforcement, and media representatives on how to better inform the public on firearms-related gender-based violence.

In the coming period, Bosnia and Herzegovina is to conduct the following activities related to this strategic goal:

- ▶ Strengthen the capacities of the relevant agencies to combat illegal possession, manufacturing, misuse, and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives;
- ▶ Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions on the criminal justice response to firearms related criminality;
- ▶ Establish an efficient model for the functioning of the Firearms Focal Point(s),
- ▶ Strengthen forensic capacities in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- ▶ Intensify awareness-raising activities on the risks of SALW misuse through Community Policing,
- ▶ Strengthen control of import and export of weapons and military equipment, including the movement of weapons and military equipment in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ▶ Improve the security for the storages and warehousing of SALW at police agencies;
- ▶ Collect and dispose of illicit weapons and the accompanying ammunition;
- ▶ Better understanding of the negative impact that SALW has on citizens in this country, including its impact on women and men through specific research.
- ▶ Ensure gender mainstreaming in SALW control measures, with special focus on the prevention of weapons abuse in domestic violence cases, disaggregation of data by sex and age, strengthening the capacities of institutions to design and implement gender responsive measures and efforts to increase the participation of women in SALW control.
- ▶ Improve collection of firearms related statistics, including statistics disaggregated by sex and age.
- ▶ Strengthen citizen awareness on the risks posed by SALW.

3. Management of SALW in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The activities of the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina were implemented within the framework of continuous activities to resolve the problem of surplus small arms and light weapons in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including storing ammunition and explosives at prospective military locations, improving the storage of small arms and light weapons (hereinafter: SALW) and strengthening the administrative capacities for SALW management.

Continuation of resolving SALW surplus in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina

During the implementation period of the document, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have systematically approached the resolution of surplus small arms, light weapons and ammunition through:

- ▶ sale,
- ▶ donation,
- ▶ destruction.

These activities were implemented in line with the applicable legal arrangements and bylaws, relevant UN resolutions, OSCE documents and the international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of weapons control and through confidence and trust building measures. Significant support and concrete assistance was provided by international organisations: United Nations, OSCE, NATO, as well as international partners EUFOR, NPA, HALO TRUST, AMAT (Ammunition Management Advisory Team), SEESAC and others.

Through sales, 126,683.2 kg of explosives resulting from the delaboration of ammunition, mines and EOD were disposed of in 2024. In the relevant period, there were no activities to resolve surplus weapons, nor were there any donated funds.

From 2021 to 2024, a total of 487 tons of ammunition and mines and explosive devices were disposed of, as shown in the graph (data refer to the period from 2021 to 1 May 2024).

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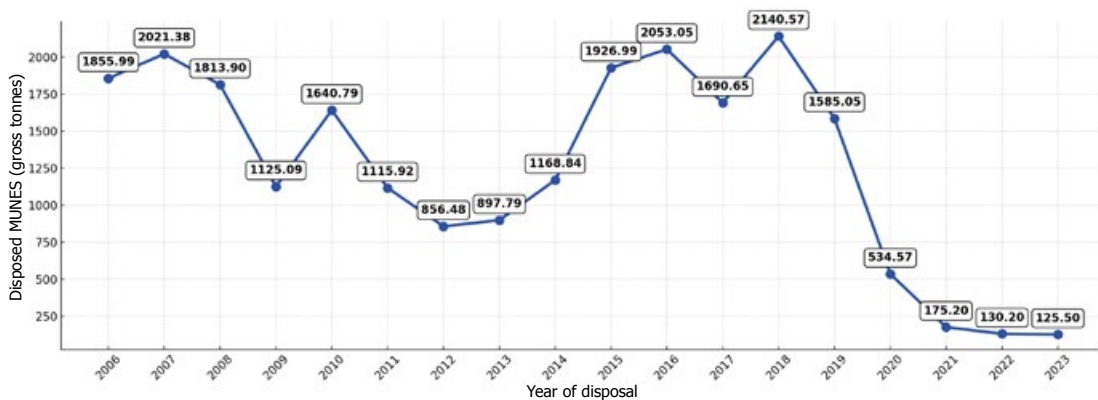


Chart: Disposal of ammunition and mines and EOD (gross tonnes)

Placement of ammunition and mines and EOD at prospective storages

Through a decision of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 63 military purpose locations in the country became prospective locations for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina: 41 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 22 in the Republika Srpska. Over the past period, the documentation required under property law was obtained for each of these locations and a respective database and land register established.

Upgrading of SALW storage sites

Activities to upgrade weapons and ammunition storage sites continued. In cooperation with UNDP and OSCE, special attention was paid to the completion of projects to improve the safety infrastructure of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina at ammunition and weapons storage sites *Krupa Hadžići*, *Kula 1 Mrkonjić Grad*, *TBT Visoko* and *Rabić Derventa*.

Building own capacities for demilitarisation of ammunition within the defence system was one of the main priorities during the previous period. In addition to demilitarisation facility for ammunition, mines and EOD, a laboratory for testing the stability of propellants and ammunition was put into operational function at the location of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina TROM Doboj, thus opening a possibility of detecting instability of fuel and gunpowder in ammunition.

Strengthening the administrative capacities for SALW management

At the level of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, capacities for testing powder charges for ammunition have been established in order to safely store ammunition in warehouses. The laboratory building in TROM Doboj has been extended and the necessary equipment and materials for ammunition testing and staff training have been provided (specially constructed rooms/warehouses for storing ammunition powder samples and a training space for staff who will work in the laboratory).

The marking of small arms and light weapons in the Armed Forces has been completed in full (a total of 62,029 small arms and light weapons).

In order for the above activities to be fully implemented, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted appropriate internal implementing acts regulating the relevant area, enabling the effective implementation of regulations for the management of SALW in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The management of SALW in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina remains the focus of capacity building of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to advance a secure environment in this country and the region in general. Although significant progress has been achieved in previous years in addressing these challenges through construction of infrastructure, capacity building, and minimising the risks of uncontrolled explosion or misappropriation, there is a possibility to build up on these achievements and further progress.

In order to overcome the challenges posed by the possession of SALW in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the Law on Defence, decisions of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Policy for Disposing of Surplus Weapons and Ammunition, independently and with the support of international partners, this strategic document defines the following goals for the next five-year period:

1. Priority resolving of unstable ammunition in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
2. Dispose of surplus SALW in accordance with the established disposal policy;
3. Establish a system to manage SALW lifetime;
4. Finalise the upgrading of SALW and ammunition storage sites;
5. Reduce the number of sites where ammunition and SALW are stored to a number of prospective sites supported by international community;¹⁰
6. Ensure necessary resources for maintenance of infrastructure and equipment related to ammunition and SALW;
7. Train the structures of the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in deactivation of small arms and light weapons, lifecycle management of ammunition and SALW, and continue to participate in the transfer of knowledge, acquired experiences and good practices to the personnel of the Armed Forces of partner countries.

¹⁰ In accordance with the available storage capacities, store SALW at prospective locations for the storage of LSN and LSM.

4. Strengthen regional and international cooperation in enhancing arms control including also cooperation with civil society organisations

Bosnia and Herzegovina has administrative capacities in place for implementation of regional and international cooperation aimed at the prevention of illicit trafficking in SALW.

In the past period, the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the relevant institutions have had significant cooperation with international organisations such as SEESAC, UNDP, OSCE, UNODC and others.

Over the past period, the European Union provided significant support for SALW control activities. This was primarily in the form of Council Decisions in support of SEESAC disarmament and arms control activities in South-East Europe aimed at reducing the threat of illicit SALW and its ammunition.

Cooperation with SEESAC was reflected through support for activities related to harmonisation of legal framework with the EU *acquis*, improving investigation and analytical capacities including through the establishment of the FFP, gender mainstreaming in SALW control policies and practices, enhancing security of storages and evidence rooms, awareness raising, participation in various regional processes facilitated by SEESAC including SEEFEN, the SALW Commissions process, regional border police meetings, regional criminal police meetings, the Network of the Firearms Focal Points, the Crime Scene Investigations, and coordination and monitoring the Roadmap implementation through the regional meetings as well as through its support for the preparation and publication of regional reports on the actual import and export of weapons and military equipment.

Cooperation with the UNDP office in Sarajevo was carried out through the provision of support in relation to modernisation of warehouses, implementation of awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of SALW, the process of destruction of surplus weapons and illicit SALW, organisation of joint exercises between police bodies in BiH and the Indirect Taxation Authority as well as international joint exercises between police and customs authorities from BiH and Serbia and from BiH and Montenegro, improvement of overall regional cooperation between police and customs authorities, including forensic laboratories, and the process of destruction of surplus weapons and illicit SALW.

In implementing Strategic Objective 3, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue cooperation with the UN, OSCE, NATO EUFOR, NPA, HALO TRUST, AMAT (Ammunition Management Advisory Team), SEESAC as well as with other international partners to strengthen the capacity of SALW management in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The OSCE has provided support by addressing the safety and security risks of illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within this area, in cooperation with the OSCE, efforts are being made to develop

institutional awareness on SALW control, strengthen the K9 capabilities of law enforcement agencies for the detection of SALW, ammunition and explosives, develop a regulatory framework for deactivation of SALW, and improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies for the storage of SALW and ammunition.

UNODC has undertaken a range of activities to improve detection, prevention and suppression of illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, ammunition and explosives through postal shipments. UNODC also continues to provide support to judicial institutions to improve the capacity of criminal justice institutions to combat organised crime and illicit trafficking in firearms, including activities to harmonise legislative framework, conduct investigations and prosecute crimes related to illegal firearms and related crimes linked to organised crime.

Under this strategic goal, Bosnia and Herzegovina is to implement the following activities in the coming period:

- ▶ Strengthen cooperation with regional and international organisations and specialised agencies at both the policy and operational level. This will contribute towards the implementation of regional and international weapons control commitments and frameworks, including the Roadmap.
- ▶ Exchange SALW related information in accordance with international weapons control obligations.
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation with the European Union agencies at both the strategic and operational level and in particular with EUROPOL and Frontex. Intensify the level of participation of the relevant police agencies in the work of EMPACT.¹¹
- ▶ Continue positive reporting practices in line with Bosnia and Herzegovina's regional and international commitments in various areas of arms control, including the ATT, UN PoA, Roadmap, Regional Arms Export Report.
- ▶ Continue with the practice of regular exchange of information on all aspects of SALW control issues, both on a bilateral and multilateral level.
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation with civil society organisations.

11 European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats.

MONITORING



Having in mind the scope, importance and complexity of SALW control, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued the Decision establishing the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Members of the Coordination Board are representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the State Investigation and Protection Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Directorate for Coordination of Police Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Indirect Taxation Authority, the Brčko District Police and the FBiH Ministry of Interior and the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior.

The Strategy will be developed through Action Plans for three-year periods (2025-2027 and 2028-2030)

The Coordination Board is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy and action plans, coordinate and initiate activities with the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to draft revised strategy and the action plan. The Coordination Board reports annually to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the goals defined by the Strategy and its action plans.

The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides administrative support and assistance to the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan will be evaluated based on key performance indicators that are in line with the Roadmap for the Western Balkans and narrative reports based on the strategic goals.

CONCLUSION

The Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2025–2030 and its accompanying action plans represent a framework of priority goals and activities in the field of SALW control in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are aligned with the priorities set out in the EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition and with other relevant international documents in this field.

Furthermore, the Strategy has been formulated in line with the main goals of the SALW Control Revised Roadmap that was adopted by the governments of the Western Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a means of achieving a sustainable solution to illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in SALW and their ammunition.

Successful implementation of the goals defined in the Strategy and its Action Plans will require significant funds. These funds need to be planned in due time and in accordance with the applicable budgeting methodologies or through donor funding.

ABBREVIATIONS

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
RACVIAC	Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
SEEFEN	South East Europe Firearms Expert Network
SEESAC	Regional Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
UN PoA	United Nations Plan of Action
UN ITI	International Tracing Instrument
WASSENAAR	The first global multilateral arrangement on export controls for conventional arms and sensitive goods and dual-use technologie

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**ACTION PLAN
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE
CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS
AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

2025 - 2027

INTRODUCTION

The 2025-2030 Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter referred to as: the Strategy), and accompanying action plans represent the follow-up and build-up of activities in developing a comprehensive and efficient system of control and countering of illicit trade, illegal possession, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and its ammunition. It is aimed at continuing to harmonise national legislation with the European and international standards, improving control of internal and external arms trade, reducing the number of weapons-related incidents and the number of illegal weapons in civilian possession, all whilst reducing surplus small arms and light weapons in the possession of the Armed Forces of BiH.

The Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons initiated its adoption, as an expert inter-institutional body established by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In cooperation with the competent authorities in BiH at the state, Entity, cantonal and Brčko District levels, the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons has developed an Action Plan for the period 2025-2027, to deliver on the Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH, with goals and specific indicators against which progress achieved in BiH will be measured.

The Action Plan primarily covers the objectives set out in the revised text of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and its ammunition in the Western Balkans, consolidated at the 11th Regional Roadmap Meeting in Podgorica on 10 July 2024 and adopted at the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs in Budva on 28/29 October 2024.

The Action Plan elaborates four strategic goals, further divided into specific activities to be undertaken in the period 2025 to 2027, as follows:

- 1. Harmonise legislation in the field of weapons, ammunition and explosives with the EU acquis and other relevant international commitments.**
- 2. Reduce the misuse, illegal possession, manufacture, trade and proliferation of weapons, ammunition and explosives.**
- 3. Ensure safe management of SALW and ammunition in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
- 4. Strengthen regional and international cooperation in enhancing arms control including cooperation with civil society organisations.**

It is expected that the implementation of the Action Plan will be supported by funds from international institutions and organisations monitoring the relevant area, such as the European Union (hereinafter: EU), UNDP, SEESAC, OSCE, UNODC, EUFOR, NATO, etc.

GOAL 1. Harmonise legislation in the field of weapons, ammunition and explosives with the EU acquis and other relevant international commitments

1.1. Harmonisation of relevant legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on weapons, ammunition and explosives with the EU acquis and other international commitments.

Objective	Baseline	Activity	Responsible authority/stakeholder /organisational unit for implementation	Indicator	Funding sources	Time-line
1.1.1. Harmonise 12 existing laws on weapons and ammunition with the EU legal framework	<p>Finalised assessment of the degree of harmonisation of the legal framework with the EU legislation.</p> <p>Report of the CoM BiH on the work of the Working Group for Harmonisation of Regulations on Weapons and Ammunition internally and with the European Union acquis.</p> <p>The drafting of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition is underway.</p>	<p>Set up or continue the work of working groups formed to draft laws and amendments to laws on weapons and ammunition with the aim of harmonising with relevant parts of the EU acquis.</p> <p>Develop and update tables of concordance of relevant legislation with the adopted report of the Working Group for Harmonisation of Regulations on Weapons and Ammunition internally and with the European Union acquis</p>	<p>Under continuous coordination of the SALW Coordination Board.</p> <p>RS Ministry of Interior, cantonal Ministries of Interior, Brčko District Police</p>	Number of adopted laws	Regular budgetary funds/donors.	2025-2027
1.1.2. Analyse the legal framework on the control of explosives and explosive precursors against the EU regulatory framework	<p>There is a legal framework, to an extent, regulating explosive precursors</p>	<p>Propose solutions that will improve the existing regulations in the field of explosive precursors control</p>	<p>Under continuous coordination of the Coordination Board.</p> <p>Competent institutions in BiH in line with constitutional competences.</p>	Number of analyses performed with proposed/ adopted solutions	Regular budgetary funds/donors.	2025-2027
1.1.3. Harmonise criminal laws in BiH with the UN Firearms Protocol.	<p>Gaps in the existing legal framework have been identified.</p>	<p>Form a working group to draft amendments to criminal codes</p>	<p>Ministries of Justice at the state, Entity, cantonal and Brčko District levels, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority</p>	Number of adopted amendments to criminal codes aligned with the UN Firearms Protocol	Regular budgetary funds/donors.	2025-2027

1.2. Advance data management information systems for SALW control, as well as legal trade in conventional weapons and ammunition.

<p>1.2.1. Develop and implement software solutions for issuing permits for foreign trade in weapons and military equipment .</p>	<p>The existing software the solution is inadequate. An initial assessment of the existing software as well as a needs assessment have been finalised.</p>	<p>Develop a software solution based on the requirements defined by the MoFTER BiH, install the system and organise the necessary training.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Ministry of Security of BiH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Ministry of Defence of BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority and Intelligence and Security Agency of BiH.</p>	<p>Software fully operational by 2027; Reducing processing time for issuing permits.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>1.2.2. Development of software solutions to digitalise SALW control process to advance efficiency processes in relevant institutions</p>	<p>Current capacities are at varying levels, often based on manual, paper-based processes that are time-consuming. There is limited use of digital tools to track and manage SALW licensing and control. Databases are fragmented, and lacking efficient data exchange among key institutions engaged in SALW control.</p>	<p>Conducting needs assessments and consultations with stakeholders. Design and development of software solutions. Provision of training and capacity building for relevant staff. Providing the tools and hardware needed to make digitised processes work.</p>	<p>RS Ministry of Interior, cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of the Brčko District of BiH</p>	<p>Completing software development and achieving full operational capability within the planned timeframe. Percentage of permits issued through the digital system. Improved data collection on fi-rearms-related aspects.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>1.2.3. Advance arms exports control capacities, including risk assessment, issuance of permits, delivery and delivery certificates.</p>	<p>Reports are currently submitted in accordance with national legislation and international commitments of BiH.</p>	<p>Identify and develop tools needed to increase transparency in arms exports. Enable information exchange between relevant authorities to improve oversight and coordination.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Ministry of Security of BiH, Ministry of Defence of BiH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, commissions of the Council of Ministers of BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority, RS Ministry of Interior, FBiH Ministry of Interior, cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of the Brčko District of BiH</p>	<p>Number of risk assessments conducted. Number of licenses identified as diverted into illegal flows. Number of export transparency tools developed and implemented. Frequency of information exchanges between competent authorities.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

<p>1.2.4.</p> <p>Raise awareness among firearms manufacturers on the risk of diversion into illegal flows.</p>	<p>Insufficient level of awareness about the risks of diversion into illegal flows.</p>	<p>Develop sustainable partnerships to promote arms and explosives control, raise awareness and stress the importance of safe practices.</p> <p>Increase engagement with manufacturers through seminars and initiatives to promote weapons control measures.</p> <p>Improve existing partnerships between state institutions, civil society and legal entities and expand them for broader impact.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Ministry of Security of BiH, Ministry of Defence of BiH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, commissions of the Council of Ministers of BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority, RS Ministry of Interior, FBiH Ministry of Interior, cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of the Brčko District of BiH</p>	<p>Number of awareness-raising seminars held and participants engaged.</p> <p>Establishing new partnerships or improving existing ones with manufacturers.</p> <p>Improved compliance with safety and surveillance requirements among manufacturers.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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GOAL 2. Reduce the misuse, illegal possession, manufacture, trade and proliferation of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

2.1. Prevent and counter illicit trade, misuse, illicit manufacture and possession of SALW, ammunition and explosives through advanced procedures, equipment and training.

<p>2.1.1.</p> <p>Improve capacities for detection, identification and firearms-related investigation to prevent and counter misuse and unauthorised possession and weapons and ammunition trafficking.</p>	<p>The equipment is partially acquired through several projects implemented by UNDP BiH, UNDP SEESAC, OSCE, UNODC and bilateral donors, and its use has solid results.</p> <p>Better understanding of capacities of relevant institution in countering misuse and illicit trafficking of firearms.</p> <p>Insufficient training and need for capacity building.</p> <p>SOPs for the detection, investigation, risk analysis of firearms related criminal activity are in place.</p>	<p>Review and update, where necessary, existing SOPs for the detection, analysis, identification, and investigation of criminal activities involving firearms.</p> <p>Organise inception and advanced courses for implementing institutions/law enforcement agencies on detection, identification and investigation of firearms and ammunition, encouraging equal participation of both women and men.</p> <p>Procurement of additional equipment to improve detection and investigation capacities based on the findings of relevant needs assessments.</p> <p>Facilitate joint trainings with different institutions/law enforcement agencies in order to promote consistency and cooperation between different entities.</p>	<p>Relevant police bodies, Indirect Taxation Authority, relevant prosecutors' offices in BiH.</p>	<p>Number and type of new equipment purchased and in use;</p> <p>Number of cases and quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives seized within the country and at the borders.</p> <p>Number of trained police officers and operational K9 units deployed.</p> <p>Increased degree of specialised equipment and improved infrastructure for K9 teams</p> <p>K9 Master Plan finalised</p> <p>Number of SOPs reviewed, updated, and distributed to law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>Number of training sessions held.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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<p>2.1.2.</p> <p>Improve data collection and analysis capacities to improve detection, identification, and investigation into with firearms and ammunition.</p>	<p>Although some training has been conducted, the overall analytical capacity of relevant agencies remains insufficient for the effective detection, identification and investigation of firearms-related crimes.</p>	<p>Organise ANACapa¹² training directed on promotion of analytical skill in analysts, including forecasting techniques while encouraging equal participation of both woman and men.</p> <p>Provide training on preparing comprehensive analyses of firearms-related crimes.</p> <p>Implement assessment training risks and threats, following EUROPOL SOCTA methodology (assessment threats for serious and organised crime) encouraging equal participation of both woman and men.</p> <p>Conduct specialised training for analytical units of police agencies on the use of gender analysis in firearms investigations.</p>	<p>Relevant police bodies, relevant prosecutors' offices in BiH</p>	<p>Number of trainings conducted and participants trained in analytical skills, risk assessment and gender aspects in firearms investigations.</p> <p>Number of comprehensive analyses of firearm-related crimes produced and used by relevant agencies.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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12 Anacapa training refers to specialised programmes in the field of criminal intelligence analysis with the aim of improving analytical skills. This training is intended for representatives (experts) from the field of security and intelligence to analyse complex information in criminal investigations. It focuses on key techniques such as data evaluation, critical thinking and development of analytical graphs. Trainees learn how to develop associative matrices, identify gaps in criminal intelligence and apply analytical methods to solve complex crimes. This is a one-week training, primarily intended for criminal intelligence analysts.

<p>2.1.3.</p> <p>Improve the system for collecting sex- and age-disaggregated data on the distribution and impact of firearms and ammunition.</p>	<p>Data is not collected in accordance with international standards and does not use a uniform format. Laws on weapons require record-keeping, but often do not include all the necessary data.</p>	<p>Analyse deficiencies in record-keeping.</p> <p>Develop a standardised form for collecting sex- and age-disaggregated data for all security agencies.</p> <p>Amend existing record-keeping legislation and add the necessary data.</p> <p>Organise training on data collection and exchange.</p> <p>Collect firearms data continuously and periodically extract data from the system for analysis.</p>	<p>RS Ministry of Interior, cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of the Brčko District of BiH</p>	<p>Methodology developed.</p> <p>Data collected in accordance with the adopted methodology.</p> <p>A unified/standardised form for collecting statistical data has been developed.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>2.1.4.</p> <p>Ensure an efficient system for tracking firearms-related data from the reporting and recording of events involving weapons – a crime or minor offence – to the completion of the appropriate criminal or minor offence proceedings.</p>	<p>Prepared assessment of relevant legal and statistical models for police and judiciary to initiate the process of defining and introducing additional data sets, as well as appropriate software solutions and hardware capacities, which will enable the establishment of an interoperable and harmonised model of collection, processing, control and reporting of SALW-related offences and crimes.</p>	<p>Organise meetings with IT experts in police agencies and the HJPC BiH</p> <p>Develop a software tool model</p> <p>Developing a list of necessary equipment</p>	<p>High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, relevant police bodies and prosecutors' offices in BiH</p>	<p>An assessment and analysis of existing software solutions in police structures in BiH conducted.</p> <p>Developed model of a software tool that will serve as a monitoring system/platform</p> <p>Finalised and operational software and hardware solution for data monitoring</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

Two national consultants have been hired to assess and analyse current software solutions in police structures in BiH and support the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the engagement of a company that will develop the design and define the necessary specifications for a SALW tracking system (hardware and software).

Acquired IT equipment

The number of training sessions for the use of software

2.2. Strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions for the criminal justice response to firearms-related crime.

<p>2.2.1.</p> <p>Improve cooperation between police agencies and the judiciary regarding the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of SALW-related crimes.</p>	<p>Although some mechanisms are in place, there is a continuing need to improve cooperation between the police and prosecutors, particularly in the context of firearms-related crimes.</p>	<p>Intensify and expand joint training programmes for police officers and prosecutors through specialised educational centres.</p> <p>Organise joint exercises between prosecutors and police agencies to improve coordination during investigations and prosecutions of firearms-related crimes.</p>	<p>Relevant police bodies, prosecutors' offices in BiH.</p>	<p>Number of trainings conducted and number of trained participants in police bodies and prosecutors' offices</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>2.2.2.</p> <p>Improve capacities to prevent and counter illicit trafficking, illegal manufacture and possession of small arms and light weapons through donation of equipment and the implementation of training for competent judicial authorities</p>	<p>Non-aligned case law regarding sentencing for firearms, ammunition and explosives-related crimes.</p> <p>Limited specialised knowledge and technological capacity of the judicial system to effectively prosecute the crime of firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>In cooperation with the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC), develop and maintain a database of adjudicated cases involving firearms in order to improve the consistency and quality of sentencing.</p> <p>Providing equipment and training needed for database development</p>	<p>HJPC BiH, prosecutors' office in BiH</p>	<p>Create and use a database of adjudicated cases involving firearms.</p> <p>Improve the efficiency and rate of successful prosecutions and consistency in sentencing in firearms cases, which will be monitored through the HJPC BiH database.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

2.3. Establish Firearms Focal Point(s)

<p>2.3.1.</p> <p>Improve the capacities of Firearms Focal Point(s)</p>	<p>Contact persons/ organisational units in police bodies have been appointed, a Decision has been adopted on the establishment of an interdepartmental Working Group for the drafting of the text of the Memorandum of understanding between the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the establishment of a firearms focal point(s) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the signed Memorandum of Understanding,</p>	<p>In line with the signed Memorandum of Understanding, conduct a needs assessment to identify the needs for the establishment of a Firearms Focal Point(s), including human resources, infrastructure and operational tools.</p> <p>Organise comprehensive training for the staff of the Firearms Focal Point(s), focusing on human resource development, operational skills and advanced investigative techniques.</p> <p>Provide specialised training in line with the identified needs (for example: illicit trafficking and proliferation, gender aspects of firearms misuse, etc.), so that the staff of the Focal Point(s) are able to effectively address these issues.</p>	<p>Police bodies in BiH</p>	<p>Results of the needs assessment, with follow-up actions taken to address identified gaps.</p> <p>Number of training sessions conducted and number of trained Firearms Focal Point(s) staff.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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2.4. Strengthen forensic capacities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

<p>2.4.1.</p> <p>Continue strengthening forensic capacities for investigating firearms-related crimes.</p>	<p>Partially developed capacities of forensic laboratories, limited number of accredited methods of expertise</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Agency for Forensic Examination and Expertise of BiH, the FBIH Ministry of Interior, the RS Ministry of Interior and the Police of the Brčko District of BiH.</p> <p>Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior uses the IBIS system.</p>	<p>Ensure the necessary equipment and tools for forensic laboratories and specialised training for staff with the aim of further accreditation of forensic methods.</p> <p>Continue regional and international cooperation of forensic laboratories</p>	<p>Police bodies in BiH that have forensic capacities</p>	<p>Number of forensic laboratories upgraded and accredited.</p> <p>Percentage of forensic personnel trained in the use of advanced equipment/ technologies.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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2.5. Improve gender mainstreaming in SALW control measures.

<p>2.5.1.</p> <p>Gender and age mainstreaming in SALW control and operations and ensure strategic participation of women in SALW control</p>	<p>Significant progress has been made in gender mainstreaming in SALW control, especially on strategic level.</p> <p>Activities have been initiated towards gender mainstreaming at the operational level.</p> <p>Continuous training and capacity building is needed to support the implementation of existing commitments.</p> <p>Engagement women in SALW control remains insufficient, which requires further measures to ensure gender-balanced participation of women and men in SALW control.</p>	<p>Conduct trainings on gender aspects of SALW control for members of the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and all institutions responsible for the development and implementation of SALW control policies.</p> <p>Develop policies to ensure balanced representation and participation of women in SALW control.</p> <p>Organise meetings between the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Gender Equality Agency, the MHRR BiH, the Coordination Board for UNSCR 1325, and women's civil society organisations and other organisations promoting gender equality.</p> <p>Implement developed gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for the control of small arms and light weapons.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, relevant police bodies in BiH</p>	<p>Number of trainings conducted on gender aspects of SALW control.</p> <p>Percentage increase in representation of women in SALW control.</p> <p>Number of trained officials with improved capacity for gender mainstreaming, measured through ex-post assessments.</p> <p>Number of meetings held</p> <p>Presence of men and women at meetings held</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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<p>2.5.2.</p> <p>Improve strategic and operational answer on firearms abuse in the context of gender based violence, especially domestic violence.</p>	<p>Gender-sensitive guidelines developed for firearms licensing and guidelines for assessing and addressing the risk of firearm misuse in cases of domestic violence.</p> <p>Continuous training and capacity building is needed, including the development of new additional guidelines for police officers and other relevant professionals, as firearm misuse in cases of domestic violence is becoming a serious problem.</p>	<p>Develop relevant training for police and joint training for police and prosecutors aimed at improving the prevention of domestic violence committed with the use of firearms.</p> <p>Conduct training for police bodies on assessing and addressing the risk of firearm misuse in domestic violence.</p> <p>Conduct training on gender-sensitive firearms licensing.</p> <p>Organise inter-sectoral meetings to improve inter-institutional cooperation in preventing firearm misuse in domestic violence (police bodies, prosecutors, social welfare centres, women's NGOs and safe houses).</p> <p>Develop and distribute guidelines for police authorities and prosecutors on handling cases of domestic violence involving firearms.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, relevant police bodies in BiH</p>	<p>Number of police officers/prosecutors trained on domestic violence and firearms risks.</p> <p>Adoption and implementation of new guidelines for law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial services.</p> <p>Number of men and women attending training sessions.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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<p>2.5.3.</p> <p>Improve strategic and operational answer on firearms abuse in the context of gender based violence, especially domestic violence.</p>	<p>Research has extensively documented disproportionate representation of men, especially young men, among victims and perpetrators of armed violence and the link between gender norms and roles, including specific notions of masculinity, and the misuse and demand for firearms. This issue, however, is not adequately addressed at the policy and operational levels, undermining the effectiveness of preventive measures.</p>	<p>Develop guidelines for gender-sensitive prevention of armed violence.</p> <p>Conduct trainings for relevant professional staff on gender-responsive prevention of armed violence.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, relevant police bodies in BiH</p>	<p>Number of guidelines developed.</p> <p>Number of trainings conducted.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>2.6. Increase citizens' awareness about the risks posed by small arms and light weapons.</p>						
<p>2.6.1.</p> <p>Increase awareness and improve understanding among civil society organisations regarding the misuse and illegal possession of firearms.</p>	<p>Civil society is underinformed about the issue of small arms and light weapons control, and existing initiatives lack sufficient reach and impact.</p>	<p>Organise periodic workshops with civil society organisations (CSOs), including women's organisations, gender equality promoters and the media, to improve their understanding of SALW-related issues.</p> <p>Support CSOs in developing and implementing projects related to SALW control, focusing on community awareness-raising, advocacy and education.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, relevant police bodies in BiH</p>	<p>Number of workshops held and diversity of participating CSOs.</p> <p>Number of projects related to SALW control that have been supported by grants and implemented by CSOs.</p> <p>Evaluation reports demonstrating increased knowledge and engagement of CSOs in activities in the field of SALW control.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>

<p>2.6.2.</p> <p>Improve cooperation with the media in order to ensure adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-related violence.</p>	<p>Media reporting on SALW-related issues, particularly in the context of domestic violence and femicide, is inconsistent and often lacks support for positive institutional efforts.</p> <p>Finalised guidelines for police agencies on how to engage with the media.</p>	<p>Organise specialised workshops and conferences for media professionals, focusing on responsible reporting of firearms-related incidents, particularly those involving domestic violence and femicide.</p> <p>Engage within the SEESAC Regional Awareness-Raising Working Group to align media strategies with regional standards and enhance engagement with the media.</p> <p>Develop a media toolkit for reporting on SALW issues, highlighting ethical aspects, the importance of balanced reporting and the role of the media in shaping public opinion.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and relevant police bodies in BiH.</p>	<p>Number of workshops held and media representatives trained.</p> <p>Quality and frequency of media reporting on SALW-related issues, evaluated through content analysis.</p> <p>Increased positive media engagement with institutions working on SALW control</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
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<p>2.6.3.</p> <p>Raise awareness on dangers associated with the misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms and ammunition.</p>	<p>Citizens are insufficiently aware of firearms-related threats;</p> <p>There is widespread misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence.</p> <p>High number of suicide cases involving firearms.</p> <p>High number of bomb reports in schools across BiH, posing a security risk to the wider community.</p>	<p>Conduct targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including those targeting young men (aged 15-34), highlighting the risks of misuse of firearms, illegal possession and promoting responsible possession of legal SALW, as well as other implications for society.</p> <p>Organise roundtables with representatives of relevant institutions, CSOs and community leaders to discuss the impact of gender roles and norms on risky behaviour and the demand for firearms.</p> <p>Intensify the work of community police officers with neighbourhoods, schools, sports clubs, etc. on raising awareness of the dangers of firearms.</p> <p>Implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign on the role of firearms in domestic violence and femicide, with an emphasis on preventive and protective measures.</p> <p>Engage with the SEESAC Regional Awareness Working Group to incorporate best practices and regional insights into awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>Conduct an analysis of suicide cases committed with firearms.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, relevant police bodies in BiH and the Gender Equality Agency of BiH, MHRR BiH.</p>	<p>Number of awareness campaigns conducted and their reach, measured through surveys and social media analytics.</p> <p>Number of roundtables organised and quality of discussions, measured through feedback from participants and action plans developed.</p> <p>Awareness raising activities targeting young men carried out.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
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2.7. Systematically collect and destroy illegal small arms and light weapons and its associated ammunition.

<p>2.7.1. Reduce the number of illegal firearms through legalisation and voluntary surrender of weapons and ammunition.</p>	<p>Legalisation and amnesty campaigns are carried out periodically.</p>	<p>Conduct countrywide campaigns/events on legalisation and voluntary hand-over.</p>	<p>RS Ministry of Interior, FBiH Ministry of Interior, cantonal Ministries of Interior and the Police of the Brčko District of BiH Cooperation: Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and international organisations</p>	<p>Number of legalised and voluntarily surrendered weapons. Number of campaigns/events carried out</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>2.7.2. Systematically and publicly destroy weapons as well as voluntarily surrendered weapons.</p>	<p>Destruction activities are carried out periodically with the support of UNDP BiH and UNDP SEESAC.</p>	<p>Continue periodic and public destruction of seized weapons that have been approved for destruction at designated destruction locations.</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, relevant police bodies in BiH, prosecutors' offices and courts in BiH</p>	<p>Number of weapons and ammunition publicly destroyed at designated destruction sites. Number of partnerships established with destruction site owners and extent of their contribution to destruction activities.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

2.8. Improve SALW storage security and safety in police agencies.

<p>2.8.1. Ensure that storage facilities for small arms and light weapons/ firearms and ammunition are safe and secure in accordance with international standards.</p>	<p>Although some storage areas and evidence rooms have been upgraded with donor support, several storage locations still have conditions that pose security risks. Situational analysis of storage locations has been completed, highlighting the need for further improvements.</p>	<p>Improve the safety and security of storage infrastructure based on the IATG checklist for law enforcement agencies and licensed legal entities. Improve the security of evidence storage facilities. Establish/improve an evidence storage system</p>	<p>Relevant police bodies in BiH</p>	<p>Number of storage facilities and evidence rooms whose safety and security have been upgraded in accordance with IATG standards. Reduction in the number of security incidents or breaches at small arms and light weapons storage sites. Completion and effectiveness of a revised chain of custody of evidence, measured by internal audits and security assessments.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
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GOAL 3. Ensure safe management of SALW and ammunition in the possession of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<p>3.1. Reduce the amount of ammunition from the quantities of unstable ammunition and surplus in the possession of the AF BiH through its disposal up to a defined amount (7,500t).</p>	<p>Current status of unstable ammunition in the possession of the AF BiH</p>	<p>Regular checks and disposal</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Accounting status of ammunition quantities.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.2. Reduce SALW to the quantities required for use in the AF BiH as defined by the MoD BiH</p>	<p>Overview of the status of declared surplus weapons and ammunition in the possession of the AF BiH</p>	<p>Regularly perform technical inspections and supervision, check the status and initiate procedures for disposal (sale, donation, demilitarisation)</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Accounting status of ammunition quantities.</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.3. Finalise setting up a system for ammunition life cycle management</p>	<p>Reform Programme, AWE MP13, Rules and Instructions on management, storage, keeping and disposal</p>	<p>Conduct regular checks and establish a system for ammunition life cycle management</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Finalise setting up a system for ammunition life cycle management</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.4. Finalise the improvement of infrastructure and facilities for the storage of SALW and ammunition</p>	<p>Decisions of the Presidency of BiH, Defence Review, AWE MP,</p>	<p>Reconstruction and rehabilitation of facilities in accordance with international standards</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Economic, security and financial aspects</p>	<p>Regular budgetary funds/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

13 The AWE Master Plan is a mechanism of the BiH MoD and coordinated by EUFOR for managing the resources of operations of all partners involved in establishing a sustainable stockpile management system for the BiH MoD/AF, as well as overall risk reduction in the country - Master Plan for Ammunition, Armaments and Explosives

<p>3.5. Continuously develop the capacities of the AF BiH in managing the life cycle of ammunition and SALW</p>	<p>Defence Review, AWE MP</p>	<p>Through a dynamic approach in line with legal provisions and regulatory acts, ensure continuous implementation of ammunition and mines and EOD management under constant supervision and control of processes (procurement, storage, handling, disposal, maintenance, delaboration, recording and reporting, planning, organising, implementation of adequate training in the field of ammunition life cycle management).</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Records and reporting, training</p>	<p>Donors/ regular budgetary funds.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.6. Ensure ammunition and SALW storage in prospective sites</p>	<p>Decisions of the Presidency of BiH, AWE MP Reform Programme</p>	<p>Re-allocation of funds</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Economic, security and financial aspects</p>	<p>Donors/ regular budgetary funds.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.7. Infrastructure maintenance system and equipment maintenance at SALW and ammunition storage sites</p>	<p>Maintenance policy in the BiH MoD and AF BiH, Budgetary request of the BiH MoD, Requirements plan, Procurement plan and Training Plan</p>	<p>Implementation of monitoring and control of the established maintenance system and Infrastructure Development and Modernisation Plan</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Technical documentation and warranty</p>	<p>Donors/ regular budgetary funds.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.8. Train staff within the MoD BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH to perform SALW deactivation</p>	<p>Budget request of the MoD BiH Needs plan Training plan</p>	<p>Monitoring and implementation of institutional training for personnel in the relevant field. Training appropriate personnel for the life cycle management for ammunition, mines and EOD</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Improving existing knowledge and acquiring new competencies</p>	<p>Donors/ regular budgetary funds.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>3.9. Improving the SALW and ammunition maintenance system in the capacities of the Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Maintenance policy in the MoD BiH and the BiH Armed Forces Budget request of the BiH MoD, Needs plan and Procurement Plan</p>	<p>Training of appropriate personnel, Ensuring the necessary tools</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence of BiH, Armed Forces of BiH</p>	<p>Technical documentation and development of technological procedures</p>	<p>Donors/ regular budgetary funds.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

GOAL 4. Strengthen regional and international cooperation in enhancing arms control including also cooperation with civil society organisations

<p>4.1.</p> <p>Improve regional and international cooperation and information exchange in the fight against illicit trafficking in firearms.</p>	<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina actively participates in regional and international operations, but it is necessary to further improve engagement and efficiency in the fight against illicit trafficking in firearms.</p>	<p>Increase information exchange and intensify engagement and contribution to operations led by Interpol, EUROPOL, EMPACT and SELEC.</p> <p>Expand cooperation with regional and international law enforcement authorities by increasing BiH's participation in joint operations and intelligence-sharing initiatives.</p> <p>Take part in regular coordination meetings and joint trainings with international partners to improve operational capabilities.</p>	<p>Relevant police bodies in BiH and the Indirect Taxation Authority</p>	<p>Number of joint operations with INTERPOL, EUROPOL, EMPACT and SELEC.</p> <p>Frequency and quality of intelligence shared with international law enforcement authorities.</p> <p>Increased engagement of police bodies in BiH in regional working groups and operational meetings.</p>	<p>Budgets of relevant bodies in BiH/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
<p>4.2.</p> <p>Strengthen cooperation with regional and international organisations and maintain regular contact and exchange of information with relevant institutions in the region regarding the control of small arms and light weapons</p>	<p>Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina have established active cooperation with organisations and platforms such as UNDP, SEESAC, OSCE, UNODC, EMPACT, CEPOL, etc.</p>	<p>Regularly participate in workshops, seminars, regional processes and trainings related to various aspects of SALW control organised by partner organisations and agencies.</p> <p>Actively contribute to regional processes and mechanisms, including regional meetings of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Commissions, donor coordination meetings and other regional forums.</p> <p>Organise and participate in specialised trainings for prosecutors and investigators, using various available resources from international agencies.</p> <p>Ensure consistent reporting within regional and international agreements related to the SALW control</p>	<p>Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Ministry of Defence of BiH, Entities, relevant police bodies in BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority</p>	<p>Number of workshops and seminars attended by representatives of BiH and the level of their participation.</p> <p>Compliance with and reporting on regional and international agreements on small arms and light weapons.</p> <p>Number of specialised trainings attended and number of trained officers.</p>	<p>Budgets of relevant bodies in BiH/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>

<p>4.3. Promote the Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons within the governmental and non-governmental sectors and promote cooperation with the non-governmental sector and civil society organisations (CSOs).</p>	<p>Cooperation with civil society organisations (CSOs) was limited, focusing mainly on occasional seminars. There is a need for wider promotion of the Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons within the non-governmental sector and improved cooperation with CSOs.</p> <p>Guidelines for inter-institutional communication in the field of SALW have been developed</p>	<p>Organise awareness-raising campaigns and information sessions that promote activities envisaged in the Strategy for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.</p> <p>Implement joint projects, especially those addressing domestic violence, gender issues and community safety related to SALW misuse in partnership with CSOs.</p> <p>Organise regular meetings and workshops with CSOs to ensure their active involvement in SALW control initiatives and policy advocacy.</p>	<p>SALW Coordination Board.</p> <p>All competent institutions in BiH</p>	<p>Number of awareness-raising campaigns and information sessions organised with CSOs.</p> <p>Number of joint projects implemented with CSOs.</p> <p>Increased participation of CSOs in discussions on policies and initiatives related to small arms and light weapons.</p>	<p>Budgets of relevant bodies in BiH/donors.</p>	<p>2025-2027</p>
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