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

Monitoring Framework (5th Progress Report)-Skopje

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Biannual progress reports documenting the progress, challenges and needs in the Roadmap implementation, against the KPIs and its goals;

The SALW Commissions are responsible for collecting the required data and progress on activities as per Roadmap Goals, from all relevant institutions (except for KPI 5 and KPI 14);

SEESAC is integrating the data into a regional report that is shared regularly with the EU, other donors, regional and international partners;

Supported through the EU Council Decision 2018/1788.
KEY DATES

1st KPIs Report (covering year 2018) - 18 April 2019

2nd KPIs Report (covering 1 January - 30 June 2019) - 15 October 2019

3rd KPIs Report (covering 1 July - 31 December 2019) - 30 April 2020

4th KPIs Report (covering 1 January - 30 June 2020) - 15 October 2020

5th KPIs Report (covering 1 July - 30 December 2020) - 15 April 2021

5th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting - online - 6-7 July 2021
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 1
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 1)

By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region.

- Main laws on firearms, ammunition and explosive remain partially harmonized.

- Process of harmonization of the legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis continued during the reporting period:
  - Rulebook on deactivation of firearms adopted;
  - Draft Law on Development, Production and Trade in Military Goods sent for adoption;
  - Drafting of Law on explosive materials (including pyrotechnics) reported as ongoing;
  - Analysis on level of harmonization of national legislation with the EU Acquis developed.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 1
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 1)

By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region.

- Based on UNODC assessment the Criminal Code is not harmonized with the UN Firearms Protocol.

- Need for training and expert support for several activities identified under this goal, including on deactivation and categorization of weapons.

- COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the progress mainly due to inability of working groups to convene regularly.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 2

KEY FINDINGS (KPI 2, 3, 7 & 8)

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

- SALW Commission is in place and in charge of coordination and monitoring of SALW Control Strategy (2017-2021):
  - Process of supporting increased operational capacity of national SALW Commission initiated with OSCE’s support;
  - Evaluation of the current SALW Strategy reported as ongoing; Development of new SALW Strategy and AP initiated in 2021 with SEESAC’s support.

- Analysis on gender screening of legal framework on FAE completed, with concrete findings and recommendations.

- Firearms Focal Point established not fully operational. Intensified efforts in improving information management and exchange on firearms during this period with UNDP support.

- Direct access to INTERPOL’s iARMS and EUROPOL’s SIENA. Exchange of information ongoing with INTERPOL (34 cases) and EUROPOL (4 cases) during the reporting period.
By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.

- The Ballistics Lab has 2 accredited methods:
  - Comparative analysis of cartridge cases;
  - Comparative analysis of projectiles.
  Transition to ISO standards 17025 still in progress.

- A new Ballistic Identification System installed (Evofinder) supported by France;

- No unified information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor’s office and courts. Lack of data related to KPI 3 and KPI 8.

- Increased number of cases of unauthorized manufacture, possession, and trade of weapons or explosives than in the previous report (87 v 60).
### KPI 3 - Trafficking of FAE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019**</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reported cases during the reporting period</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported individuals during the reporting period</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solved with conviction (adjudicated)</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solved in another way</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data reported on KPI 3 under Trafficking of FAE refers to the criminal offence “Unauthorized manufacture, possession, and trade of weapons or explosives”.

**Data for I-2019 was not available, thus the data refer only to II-2019.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 3

KEY FINDINGS (KPI 4, 6 & 9)

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

- Mapping of needs in terms of equipment, training and procedures to support strengthening of border police capacities completed with concrete support to follow in 2021.

- Further support with K9 capacities and in improving the cross-border cooperation and integrated approach in combating illicit arms trafficking and misuse and proliferation of SALW. Assessment of countering trafficking through postal and courier shipments planned.

- Participation in JAD, “Bosphorus” (Conversus) and “Armstrong VII 2020” operations reported.

- While 96 firearms reported to be seized inland in the reporting period, no firearms and low number of ammunition (pcs) seized at the borders.

- No diversion of arms/ammunition exports reported. No production of firearms.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INLAND</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASES of seized FAE</strong></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms (pcs)</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QUANTITY of seized</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammunition (pcs)</td>
<td>5,378</td>
<td>5,056</td>
<td>7,166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

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

- Data on incidents and victims affected by the misuse of firearms (KPI 10) not available for the reporting period.

- Data from the AVMP showed an increase of celebratory shootings, accidental, armed robberies and public disputes during 2020.

- Most of incidents recorded with illegal firearms, mainly involving handguns, ammunition and explosives.

- Majority of pyrotechnic devices were seized in North Macedonia, mainly in December. Increase in the incidents with gas pistols recorded.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOALS 4 & 5
KEY FINDINGS (10 & 11)

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

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

- Outreach on a permanent basis conducted by units for prevention on the use of firearms and pyrotechnics with several target groups; Particular focus on celebratory shootings.

- Support planned on public awareness on dangers of illicit possession and misuse of firearms.

- No deactivation, voluntary surrender or legalization of firearms were reported in 2020.

- Reduction of firearms and ammunition in illegal possession is relying primarily on intelligence work through seizures.
KPI 14 –
Percentage of citizens feeling threatened by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in their neighborhood

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and over</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRESS REPORT – GOALS 6 & 7
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 12 & 13)

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

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

- No destruction of surpluses or confiscated FAE took place during the reporting period.

- Reduced number of inspections and controls of legal entities reported.

- Decrease of weapons reported lost/stolen than in previous report:
  - 18 firearms reported stolen and 3 firearms lost from civilians;
  - 3 firearms reported stolen from state entities;

- Security upgrade of border police stations completed.
▪ Strengthen capacities and role of the SALW Commission in priority setting, coordinating, monitoring and reporting of arms control activities.

▪ Ensure adoption of new SALW Strategy and Action Plan in line with commitments under the Roadmap.

▪ Increased capacities for data recording, collection, exchange and analysis at both strategic and operational level.

▪ Engagement of the prosecution office in the work of the SALW Commission.

▪ Strengthen legal framework in particular related to firearms trafficking in compliance with UN Firearms protocol.

▪ Extend efforts on reducing illicit possession and misuse of firearms to public awareness, legalization and deactivation of firearms.
THANK YOU