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

Monitoring Framework

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ROADMAP GOALS

- **GOAL 1.** By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.
- **GOAL 2.** By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.
- **GOAL 3.** By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
- **GOAL 4.** By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
- **GOAL 5.** By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
- **GOAL 6.** Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.
- **GOAL 7.** Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1. Number of legal frameworks on arms control throughout the Western Balkans fully harmonized with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The Firearms Protocol)*;

2. Number of evidence based arms control policy documents, developed in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans, that are also addressing needs of men, women, boys and girls;

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

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

5. Number of reported cases of FAE seized at the borders of the European Union and traced to the Western Balkans, compared to the number of FAE seized throughout the European Union and traced to or diverted from the Western Balkans;

6. Number of FAE for which export licenses were issued by the Western Balkans identified as diverted through post-shipment control procedure;

7. Firearms Focal Points established and operational in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans;

8. Number of inter-institutional cooperation cases at operational level, including investigation, prosecution and pretrial phases;

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

10. Number of incidents involving firearms and victims affected by the misuse of firearms, disaggregated by gender and age, in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans;

11. Number of FAE voluntarily surrendered, as well as firearms legalized or deactivated;

12. Number of reported SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosives confiscated or surplus systematically destroyed;

13. Number of SALW/firearms and their ammunition storage facilities in line with international safety and security standards;

14. Percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence across the Western Balkans.

KEY MILESTONES

1st KPIs Report – (covering year 2018).

18 Apr. 2019

2nd KPIs Report – (covering 1 January – 30 June 2019).

15 Oct. 2019

3rd Report (covering 1 July – 30 Dec. 2019).

15 April 2020

1st Regional Roadmap Meeting – Sarajevo, BiH.

28 May 2019

2-nd Regional Roadmap Meeting – Tirana, Albania

20–21 Nov. 2019

2nd Intern. Conf. to be held in Berlin

31 Jan 2020

PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL I KEY FINDINGS (KPI I)

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.

- A comprehensive overview of the legal framework (laws and bylaws) in place addressing arms control has been provided.
- **Civil use of Firearms and Ammunition: Legal arms control framework partially harmonized** with latest Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons; regulation on deactivation;
- **Civil Use of Explosives: Not harmonized** with Regulation 98/2013 (on explosive precursors) and EU Directive 28/2014 on explosives.
- **Military use of FAE– Fully harmonized** with Council Common Position 2008/944.
- Serbia has ratified both ATT and UN Firearms Protocol.
- Criminal code considers as criminal offences illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, removing of marking(s) not included; partially in line with UNFP.

PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 2
KEY FINDINGS (KPI2,3,7,8)

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

- An operational SALW Commission/Council is yet to be established; steps initiated based on the new SALW Strategy;
- New SALW Control Strategy 2019-2024 adopted in June 2019, based on evidence and aiming to address needs of both men and women.
- Firearms Focal Point established but not fully operational;
- Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and Europol in place; Direct access to EUROPOL's SIENA; INTERPOL's iARMS data input;
- Ballistic laboratory not accredited yet, work has initiated in improving its capacities;
- Data collection for all law enforcement authorities and criminal justice not fully standardized and institutionalized; linkage of data between relevant authorities initiated in order to achieve uniformity;

PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 3
KEY FINDINGS (KPI4,6,9)

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

- Continuous trend of higher number of seized firearms inland to those at the border (627 vs 14); Trend of seized firearms inland in the reporting period slightly lower than 2018 (1,761/627);
- Highest number of arms and ammunition export licenses issued and realized in the region;
- No identified cases of diversion of arms exports during the reporting period;
- No operational mechanism in place for controlling explosive precursors.
- Regular attendance in related regional processes (including SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC, SALW Commissions meetings)
- Operational cooperation with Europol, INTERPOL, cooperation with EMPACT (participation in JAD); close cooperation and information sharing with FRONTEX.

PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL
4&5
KEY FINDINGS (KPI I0&I1)

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.

- Legal status of firearms unknown in majority of incidents reported;
- Very high number of suicides (73) committed with firearms reported; Majority (48) with legal firearms;
- Awareness raising/outreach activities reported targeting producers;
- Awareness activities conducted through Ministry of Culture, targeting youth;
- A considerable quantity (18,932) of SALW voluntary surrendered in the reporting period; trend higher than 2018.
- Deactivation used as method to reduce illicit possession. Highest number in the region;

PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 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.

- High number of confiscated firearms reported. Similar trend to 2018 (6754 vs 14,556).
- Disposal of surplus ammunition reported in both reporting periods; Activities initiated by MoI both for SALW and ammunition destruction.
- Inspection systems reported to be in place for private legal entities;
- Ongoing work reported related to security and safety upgrades of SALW and ammunition storage of law enforcement;
- Stolen SALW reported during the reporting period;

KPI 14	Percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence across the Western Balkans.														
	<p>BREAKDOWN</p> <p>14.1 Percentage of citizens feeling threatened by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in their neighbourhood.</p>														
Explanation:	Data was collected through the annual barometer of the Regional Cooperation Council. 6,120 responses were received across the region for the following question: How threatened do you feel by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in your neighborhood (as in crime, domestic violence, celebratory shooting, etc.)? The available options were: I feel very threatened/ I feel threatened/ I do not feel threatened/ I feel completely safe. The data below represents the percentage of people who responded with I feel very threatened and I feel threatened to the given question.														
Percentage of citizens feeling threatened by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in their neighbourhood															
	Region		Belgrade		Podgorica		Pristina		Sarajevo		Skopje		Tirana		
Age	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	
18-24	43	44	42	18	43	47	68	70	57	45	26	45	16	19	
25-34	46	42	35	33	47	43	60	65	52	53	39	36	34	17	
35-44	45	42	38	29	54	39	69	60	42	52	46	34	13	35	
45-54	42	36	26	25	51	31	50	63	54	44	36	30	30	27	
55-64	39	34	28	30	37	38	56	56	51	28	44	35	25	25	
65 and over	39	36	35	28	44	42	54	59	47	48	35	41	22	14	
AVERAGE	40		31		43		63		47		37		23		



**REPORTING
PROCESS- KEY
FINDINGS**

- Substantive information has been provided by the authorities through the KPIs and narrative report, under each goal and based on the Guiding Questions;
- An operational SALW Commission/Council is to be established to also further support coordination and collection of data from different institutions;
- An operational Firearms Focal Point is essential in the collection and analysis of operational data.
- Stronger inter-institutional cooperation and standardization of information sharing is needed among law enforcement and criminal justice institutions;
- Involvement of Ministry of Justice and Prosecution Office essential in the work of the SALW Coordination Council;



THANK YOU