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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 framework not 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. Standardization across BiH identified as a need;
- **Civil Use of Explosives: Not harmonized** with Regulation 98/2013 (on explosive precursors) and EU Directive 28/2014 on explosives.
- **Military use of FAE– Harmonized** with Council Common Position 2008/944.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified ATT and acceded UN Firearms Protocol.
- Not clear reference to all elements as criminal offences including: illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition; falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms in the criminal codes 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 active SALW Coordination Board is in place and in charge of coordination and monitoring of arms control activities;
- SALW Control Strategy 2016-2020, based on evidence and with a strong gender component. Action Plan for the implementation on the Roadmap yet to be adopted.
- Firearms Focal Point not established yet.
- No single focal point with EUROPOL; Use of EUROPOL's SIENA by FBiH and Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies; No direct access by Republika Srpska; Data exchange reported through INTERPOL's iARMS by Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies; Almost all agencies reported to have access to iArms;
- High number of illegal manufacturing cases of FAE (114) reported in 2019;
- Data exchange among law enforcement and criminal justice system on prosecutions and convictions of firearms related crimes neither standardized nor institutionalized;

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.

- Higher number of seized firearms inland to those at the border reported (256 vs 2); Trend of seized ammunition inland in the reporting period considerably higher than 2018 (16,151 vs 8,638);
- Data was not provided on arms export issued and realized in both reporting periods; No identified cases of diversion of arms exports during the reporting period;
- Operational mechanism for controlling explosive precursors reported not in place yet;
- Regular attendance related regional processes (including SEEFEN and SEEFEG)
- No data collection for Global Firearms Study reported.
- Operational cooperation with Europol (through SIENA), INTERPOL, cooperation reported through SIPA with EMPACT (participation in JAD);

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.

- Majority of incidents committed with illegal firearms; High number of suicides with firearms recorded;
- Awareness raising/outreach activities reported by several cantons targeting private entities; and military industry by MOFTER;
- Awareness activities reported by several cantons, Republika Srpska, Brcko District through community policing, and focused on young men, domestic violence, celebratory shooting, new applicants, etc;
- Considerable number of weapons voluntarily surrendered (784) and legalized (1069) during the reporting; similar trend as 2018.
- Deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession by several cantons;

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.

- Destruction of both confiscated and surplus SALW/firearms and ammunition reported. Support is required for the continuation of the destruction/disposal process;
- Inspection systems reported to be in place and conducted for legal entities by several cantons and MOFTER;
- Ongoing work reported related to security and safety of SALW and ammunition storages of both army and law enforcement;
- Stolen and lost firearms reported during the reporting period in two cases;

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; Data on KPIs from Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska included for 2019;
- Roadmap Action Plan is yet to be adopted.
- Harmonization of arms control legal framework is particularly complex in BiH, as needed both at country level and with EU Acquis;
- Institutional set up makes collection, reporting and analysis of data and information submitted more complex;
- The SALW Coordination Board has a strong role in coordination and collection of data from several institutions or units within an institution and in quality control of data submitted;
- Establishment of Firearms Focal Point would be essential in the collection and analysis of operational data.
- Inter-institutional cooperation and standardization of information sharing among law enforcement and criminal justice institutions is a key need;



THANK YOU