



This project is funded by
the European Union



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 thorough overview of the legal framework in place addressing arms control has been provided.
- **Civil use of Firearms and Ammunition: Law on weapons** non 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.
- **Civil Use of Explosives:** Not harmonized with Regulation 98/2013 (on explosive precursors) and EU Directive 28/2014 on explosives.
- **Military use of FAE** – Partial harmonization with Council Common Position 2008/944.
- Ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol.
- The criminal code does not cover parts and components of firearms for the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms; and illicit manufacturing and trafficking currently covered by the same article;

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.

- The SALW Commission is in place and in charge of coordination and monitoring of arms control activities; with a stronger focus on operational level;
- Stronger involvement of Ministry of Justice and Prosecution Office is recommended;
- New SALW Control Strategy in place 2017-2021.
- Process of establishment of FFP initiated but not yet operational; integrated database for information exchange identified as priority need and task.
- Lack of standardized and institutionalization of data exchange among law enforcement and criminal justice system on prosecutions and convictions of firearms related crimes. (cases vs offences);
- Access to INTERPOL's iARMS reported and cooperation with IBIN;

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.

- No identified cases of diversion of arms exports during the reporting period;
- No information provided on seizures at the border, essential in understanding the trafficking trends;
- No operational mechanism in place for controlling explosive precursors.
- Regular attendance related regional processes (including SEEFEN and SEEFEG)
- Reported collection of data for Global Firearms Study.
- Operational cooperation and exchange of strategic information with Europol (through SIENA), cooperation with EMPACT (participation in JAD);

PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL
4&5
KEY FINDINGS (KPI 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.

- Number of suicides committed with firearms, equal to number of homicides;
- Awareness raising/outreach activities reported, targeting licensed ammunition producer;
- Legalization campaign ongoing. 23 firearms legalized (out of 411 requests).
- No voluntary surrender during the reporting period;
- Support for implementation of awareness campaigns for civilian population required;

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.

- No destruction of either confiscated or surplus SALW/firearms and ammunition reported;
- Inspection systems reported to be in place for private legal entities while still to be established for military goods;
- Ongoing work reported related to security and safety of SALW and ammunition storages mainly for law enforcement;
- No data on lost or stolen SALW/firearms and ammunition during reporting period;

KPI 14	Percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence across the Western Balkans.														
	BREAKDOWN 14.1 Percentage of citizens feeling threatened by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons in their neighbourhood.														
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 Guiding Questions.
- No data was provided yet for KPI 3 (Number of cases, individuals and quantity of misused and trafficked FAE prosecuted and adjudicated.....) and KPI 8 (Number of inter-institutional cooperation cases at operational level, including investigation, prosecution and pretrial phases) data due to lack of data collected from the prosecution and the courts records;
- Limited data on KPI 9 provided (Number of cases of operational cooperation ... with authorities in the region, EU member states and agencies as well as international law enforcement agencies).
- No data for KPI 12 in 2019 on confiscation of firearms, ammunition and explosives, which hinders capturing of progress and understanding of the size of the problem.

REPORTING PROCESS- KEY FINDINGS

- The new SALW Commission needs to have a stronger role and support in collection of data from several institutions or units within an institution and in quality control of data submitted (Limited human resources capacities?)
- Stronger inter-institutional cooperation and sharing of information is needed, in particular among law enforcement and criminal justice institutions;
- Operationalization of Firearms Focal Point as an essential unit in the collection and analysis of operational data.
- Firearms related data collection disaggregated based on gender and age, to allow for measures making effective use of resources;



THANK YOU