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

Monitoring Framework (3rd Progress Report)

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A unique coordination and monitoring platform has been established with funding support through EU CD 2018/1788;

Biannual local coordination meetings organized by the SALW Commissions, reviewing implementation of Roadmap Action Plans;

Biannual regional roadmap coordination meetings, taking stock of implementation of Roadmap;

Three progress reports have been submitted by all jurisdictions on both KPIs and Roadmap Goals.
KEY FINDINGS – 3RD PROGRESS REPORTS
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.

- Legal framework in the Western Balkans regarding firearms, ammunition, and explosives for civilian and military use, is generally in place.

- Most jurisdictions are in process of amending their laws on weapons and some of them on explosives for civil use, to harmonize with EU regulatory framework.

- Guidelines to implement the new explosive precursors regulation were lately published, so drafting of new laws on explosive precursors to be initiated.

- Assessments of criminal and criminal procedure codes and their compliance with the UN Firearms Protocol are currently ongoing.
GOAL 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led

- Almost all SALW Commissions in place, with an increased role, as central bodies in priority setting, planning, coordination and monitoring of activities;

- SALW Control Strategies in place while Roadmap Action Plans have been adopted in five jurisdictions;

- Limited activities related to integration of gender and age dimension into SALW/firearms control were reported. Collection of disaggregated data on various aspects of arms control, still a challenge.

- Firearms Focal Points established in almost all jurisdictions (except Sarajevo). Connection of databases and production of analytical gun crimes reports initiated by most FFPs.

- Strengthening of cooperation among FFPs in the Western Balkans and EU Member States initiated.
GOAL 2: By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led (CONT.)

- **Significant increase of exchange** of operational and strategic information and data reported in 2019 through various channels and tools (iARMS, SIENA, WBRAN).

- Efforts have been intensified by several jurisdictions towards improving investigations of firearms related crimes by **building further the forensic ballistics capacities**.

- Procedures for accreditation of ballistic laboratories are in process in Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo and Tirana. Ballistic laboratories accredited according to ISO 17025 in Pristina and Skopje;
GOAL 3: By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans

- **Assessment** of administrative, institutional as well as operational and technical capacities of both criminal and border police capacities reported as ongoing in most jurisdictions.

- Based on data from KPI 4, the trend of cases and number of FAE seized inland higher than those at the border continues in 2019 for all jurisdictions.

- While it is highly encouraged the work on detection inland of illicit firearms, the same is needed to increase the detection rates at the border.

- Intensified intelligence-led operational cooperation has been reported throughout 2019.
GOAL 3: By 2024, significantly reduce **illicit flows** of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans (cont.)

- Greater involvement of EU border guards engaged by FRONTEX has been reported by at least two jurisdictions.

- Cooperation with EMPACT and participation in Joint Action Days is highly reported.

- Strengthened cooperation between **law enforcement** and **criminal justice** (prosecution offices and courts) and **capacity development of the criminal justice** have been again highlighted as needs in improving investigation processes of firearms related crimes.

- No diversion of weapons or ammunition was reported in 2019.
GOAL 4: By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy

- Some awareness raising/outreach activities were reported, targeting licensed entities, FAE producers and relevant institutions (Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje);

- Awareness raising activities with regard to the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence were reported by Belgrade and more limited in Pristina;

- Need for support in conducting national wide risk awareness targeting different groups, which has been highlighted by all jurisdictions.

- Majority of incidents reported with illegal firearms. Overall, 2019 reported higher number of incidents than in 2018 (1,096 vs 726), including legal, illegal and unknown type of firearms possession;

- A higher number of suicides committed with firearms reported in 2019. Belgrade and Sarajevo with the highest number;
## PROGRESS REPORT – KPI 14

### KEY FINDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Belgrade</th>
<th>Podgorica</th>
<th>Pristina</th>
<th>Sarajevo</th>
<th>Skopje</th>
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GOAL 5: By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans

- Voluntary surrender of weapons reported in three jurisdictions; Highest number of registered firearms voluntarily surrendered reported by Belgrade (18,278);

- Four jurisdictions reported use of deactivation as a method to reduce illegal possession of firearms, in small numbers, except for Belgrade (211);

- Legalization of firearms reported ongoing in three of the jurisdictions in the reporting period; An increase of firearms legalization in 2019 (3,013) than in 2018 (695) in Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje;
GOAL 6: Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition

- Disposal of surplus SALW and/or ammunition was reported by Belgrade, Podgorica and Sarajevo during the reporting period;

- Destruction of confiscated firearms was reported in five jurisdictions (Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje);

- Ministries of Defence to focus on increasing further the capacities on Life Cycle Management of ammunition.
GOAL 7: Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives

- Inspection systems reported and inspections conducted regularly on legal entities by several jurisdictions.

- Ongoing work reported by almost all jurisdictions related to security and safety of ammunition storages (both law enforcement and armed forces).

- There is a considerably high number of firearms reported lost or stolen from legal entities and individual reported.
There is an increased support of the international and regional organizations in 2019.
Based on contributions received, in 2020 there are:

- 26 fully funded projects
- 10 partially funded
- 3 projects that are not funded (project proposals have been submitted).

### Funding Support

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<th>Project Type</th>
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<td>Fully funded projects</td>
<td>53,532,264</td>
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<td>Partially funded projects</td>
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<td>Funding gap of partially funded and non-funded</td>
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**Notes:**

1. The figures include multi-annual projects and projects initiated before 2020.
2. Figures are based on voluntary information provided by international organizations in advance of the 3rd Regional Coordination meeting.
• Data collection requires strong coordination from the SALW Commissions; In spite of Covid-19 crisis, significant information was provided;

• Challenge is noted in data collection for KPI3 and KPI8, which require cooperation with and inputs from prosecution offices and courts; Further consultation and work on information standardization under these KPIs is required;

• Quality control continues to be a must in order to ensure consistency of information collected and submitted;
THANK YOU