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

Monitoring Framework – Regional Overview

Juliana Buzi
Regional Cooperation Coordinator
SEESAC
EU COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2018/1788 of 19 November 2018:

✓ Formal regional Roadmap coordination meetings focusing on progress and information exchange (2xyear);

✓ Support to local coordination meetings (2xyear);

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

✓ Mid-term evaluation including capacity assessments prepared for the 6 Roadmap beneficiaries by 2021;
ROADMAP MONITORING - KEY DATES

18 Apr. 2019

15 Oct. 2019

April 2020

1st Regional Roadmap Meeting – Sarajevo, BiH.
28 May 2019

2-nd Regional Roadmap Meeting
20–21 Nov. 2019

2nd Intern. Conf. to be held in Berlin
31 January 2020
• All 6 Roadmap beneficiaries have submitted KPIs and Narrative Reports based on the agreed format (except for KPI 5 and KPI 14). Additional guiding questions based on inputs provided on 1st report;

• Thorough information has been provided by most of the authorities on progress, challenges and needs for support – through the narrative report, under each goal and based on Guiding Questions.

• Substantial inputs were provided by regional and international organizations, on their current and planned contributions to the Roadmap implementation.
• Data and information submitted, differs in the level of detail from one jurisdiction to the other, on both KPIs and narrative reports.

• Collection of data needs inputs from several institutions or units within institution, which requires a strong coordination from the SALW commissions;

• Challenges were faced by most of the authorities in collecting data from prosecution offices and courts (KPI3 and KPI8); Further consultation on standardization of information required under these KPIs to be planned with SALW Commissions.

• Sarajevo – data reporting is particularly challenging due to its complex institutional set up;

• Quality control of data is needed in order to ensure consistency of information submitted;

• Firearms Focal Point is an essential unit in the collection, analysis and exchange of operational data;

• Data on KPI 5 is not collected yet, while data on KPI 14 will be released annually.
**PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 1 (KPI 1)**

**KEY FINDINGS**

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.

- Most of the authorities have provided a complete overview of the legal framework (laws and bylaws) in place addressing arms control.

- **Civil use of Firearms and Ammunition:** All jurisdictions have reported either non or partial harmonization with latest Directive (EU) 2017/853 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC.

- **Civil Use of Explosives:** Partially or not harmonized by all jurisdictions with Regulation 98/2013 on explosive precursors (now replaced with 2019/1148) and EU Directive 28/2014 on explosives.

- **Military trade and production of FAE –** Most jurisdictions report full harmonization or partial (Skopje and Tirana) with Council Common Position 2008/944 on control of exports of military technology and equipment.

- Initiation of work on harmonization and amendment of various laws reported by all jurisdictions.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 1 (KPI 1)
KEY FINDINGS

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.

- Almost all jurisdictions have ratified the **Arms Trade Treaty** and **UN Firearms Protocol**.

- Full compliance with Firearms Protocol reported by Pristina and Tirana;

- The criminal code in Podgorica does not cover parts and components of firearms. Unclear about manufacturing and trafficking and no clear reference to ammunition. Analysis of criminal code by UNODC reported.

- The criminal code in Skopje does not cover parts and components of firearms for the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. Illicit manufacturing and trafficking currently covered by the same article;

- Removal of markings is not criminalized in Belgrade;
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 2
(KPI 2,3,7,8) KEY FINDINGS

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 (except for Belgrade), with a strengthened role (to varying degrees) in coordinating and monitoring the Roadmap activities.

- SALW Control Strategies in place and Roadmap Action Plans adopted by five jurisdictions. One jurisdiction reported adoption of new Strategy and accompanying Action Plan during the reporting period. (Belgrade)

- Higher awareness and concrete activities reported by several jurisdictions related to the integration of gender and age dimension into SALW/firearms control;

- Firearms Focal Points have been established in six jurisdictions. Operationalization is still needed in five jurisdictions (except for Pristina).

- **Roadmap overall target - FFPs should be operational in 2020;**
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 2 (CONT.) (KPI 2,3,7,8)

KEY FINDINGS

• All jurisdictions reported exchange of strategic information with Europol (through SIENA), and some reported use of support tools offered by EMPACT. No direct access to INTERPOL’s iARMS or EUROPOL’s SIENA reported by one jurisdiction;

• Domestic and international tracing for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized through iARMS, reported by several jurisdictions;

• Ballistic laboratories not accredited in Tirana, Belgrade, Sarajevo. Ballistic laboratories accredited according to ISO 17025 in Pristina and Skopje. No information provided by Podgorica.

• Challenge reported by all jurisdictions is the lack of standardization and institutionalization of data exchange among law enforcement and criminal justice system on prosecutions and convictions of firearms related crimes.

By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 3 (KPI4,6,9) KEY FINDINGS

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

• 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.

• Lower trend of number of seizures in the first half of 2019 both inland and at the borders.

• All jurisdictions reported operational cooperation with EMPACT (participation in JADs);

• Intensified cooperation with FRONTEX reported by several jurisdictions;
• None of the jurisdictions reported identified cases of diversion of arms exports during the reporting period;

• None of the jurisdictions reported to have an operational mechanism in place for controlling explosive precursors.

• Skopje, Tirana and Podgorica reported collection of data for Global Firearms Study.

• All jurisdictions reported to regularly attend related regional processes (including SEEFEN, SEEFEG, SELEC).
Majority of incidents reported with illegal firearms.

A considerable number of incidents with legal firearms was reported by at least one jurisdiction (Podgorica) and of unknown status from one jurisdiction (Belgrade).

A high number of suicides committed with firearms reported (156 suicides vs 67 homicides). Belgrade and Sarajevo with the highest number.

By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
• Targeted awareness raising/outreach activities were reported, targeting licensed entities and FAE producers (Belgrade, Sarajevo and Skopje);

• Awareness raising activities on the dangers of weapons targeting the general population reported by some jurisdictions (Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Tirana), including on misuse of firearms in domestic violence, celebratory shooting, targeting youth.

• Support requested by jurisdictions in implementation of awareness and outreach activities, both for civilian population and legal entities and plans informed.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 5 (KPI 11) KEY FINDINGS

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

• Four jurisdictions reported use of deactivation as a method to reduce illegal possession of firearms, in small numbers, except for Belgrade (164).

• Voluntary surrender of weapons reported in five jurisdictions; Highest number of registered firearms surrendered reported by Belgrade;

• Legalization of firearms reported ongoing in three of the jurisdictions; Sarajevo with highest number of legalized firearms reported;

• Insufficient knowledge of staff performing the verification and general identification of weapons required for legalization, reported as challenge by at least one jurisdiction;
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 6 (KPI 12) KEY FINDINGS

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

- Disposal of surplus ammunition was reported by three jurisdictions (Belgrade, Sarajevo, Tirana);

- Destruction of surplus weapons was reported by two jurisdictions (Sarajevo, Tirana);

- No destruction of confiscated firearms was reported yet in 2019;

- Need for support in disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition reported.

- No data provided by Skopje on any of indicators by Skopje.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 7
(KPI (13) KEY FINDINGS)

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

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

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

- Assessment and analysis of armament and ammunition storages security identified as a need.

- Weapons lost and stolen by private or state agencies reported by five jurisdictions in 2019. Skopje with highest number (21 pistols and 1 hunting rifle stolen, 1 pistol lost); no data from Podgorica

- Funding support requested by majority of jurisdictions.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Belgrade</th>
<th>Podgorica</th>
<th>Pristina</th>
<th>Sarajevo</th>
<th>Skopje</th>
<th>Tirana</th>
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THANK YOU