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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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 M&E reports documenting the progress, challenges and needs in the Roadmap implementation, against the KPIs;

✓ Mid-term evaluation including capacity assessments prepared for the 6 Roadmap beneficiaries by 2021;
A Reporting Framework was established in consultation with the SALW Commissions, following the KPIs and Roadmap Goals.

It was developed as a unitary template applicable to all jurisdictions.

The Framework represents the main tool for monitoring the progress on the implementation of the Roadmap.

The SALW Commissions responsible for collecting the data and information as per Roadmap Goals and KPIs (except for KPI 5 and KPI 14).
KEY MILESTONES

1st KPIs Report – (covering year 2018).


1st Regional Roadmap Meeting – Sarajevo, BiH.

2-nd Regional Roadmap Meeting

2nd Intern. Conf. to be held in Berlin

18 Apr. 2019
1 Oct. 2019
15 April 2020
28 May 2019
19–20 Nov. 2019
early 2020
• All 6 Roadmap beneficiaries submitted KPIs and Narrative Reports based on the agreed format (*Sarajevo data does not include yet the information from MoI Republika Srpska*)

• 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 provided differs in the level of details 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;

Timeline for submission of data for the first report was considered short for the reporting timeline.

Challenges were faced by most of the authorities in collecting data from prosecution offices and courts (KPI3 and KPI8)

Sarajevo – particularly challenging due to its complex institutional set up.

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

Firearms Focal Point is an essential unit in the collection and analysis of operational data.

Data on KPI 5 was not able to be collected, while data on KPI 14 to be released soon by RCC.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 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 thorough overview of the legal framework in place addressing arms control.
- **Civil Use of Explosives:** Partially or not harmonized by almost all jurisdictions with Regulation 98/2013 (on explosive precursors) and EU Directive 28/2014 on explosives.
- **Military use of FAE** – Most jurisdictions report full harmonization or partial (Skopje and Tirana) with Council Common Position 2008/944.
- Almost all jurisdictions have ratified the Arms Trade Treaty.
- Almost all jurisdictions have ratified the Firearms Protocol. The criminal codes (in Podgorica and in Skopje) do not cover parts and components of firearms for the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms while altering of markings is not a criminal offence for Belgrade;
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 2

KEY FINDINGS

• Almost all SALW Commissions are in place and in charge of coordination and monitoring of the Roadmap activities. Local roadmap coordination meetings have been held in all jurisdictions.

• SALW Control Strategies in place and Action Plans in most of the jurisdictions and partially or to full extent based on evidence.

• Process of establishment of FFPs was initiated in all jurisdictions. Various challenges faced by jurisdictions in the process, substantial support provided by SEESAC in the process.

By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence-based and intelligence-led.
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 2 (CONT.)
KEY FINDINGS

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

- All jurisdictions reported operational cooperation and exchange of strategic information with Europol (through SIENA), contribution by most of them to INTERPOL’s iARMS – (Belgrade still pending, Pristina no direct access), cooperation with EMPACT (participation in JADs); and cooperation/exchange of data with FRONTEX.

- Challenge reported on domestic and international tracing, mainly related to unsystematic data exchange practices, lack of regular feedback from international partners on requests, and limited marking capacities;

- 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. (cases vs offences)
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 3
KEY FINDINGS

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

- None of the jurisdictions reported identified cases of diversion of arms exports during the reporting period;
- Based on data from KPI 4, cases and number of FAE seized inland is much higher than those at the border for all jurisdictions.
- None of the jurisdictions reported to have an operational mechanism in place for controlling explosive precursors.
- All jurisdictions reported to regularly attend related regional processes.
- Investigating tools from EMPACT are not sufficiently requested.
- Only two jurisdictions reported collection of data for Global Firearms Study.
- At least one jurisdiction highlighted insufficient capacities for detection, analysis and conducting investigations;
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 4
KEY FINDINGS

By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

• Awareness raising activities on the dangers of firearms targeting the general population implemented in some jurisdictions (Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo), including on misuse of firearms in domestic violence.

• Limited or no awareness raising/outreach activities were reported, targeting licensed entities and FAE producers (limited Belgrade, Sarajevo, Pristina);

• A considerable number of incidents committed with legal firearms were reported by at least two jurisdictions (of those who reported available data).

• A high number of suicides committed with firearms, data not disaggregated.

• Support is requested by several jurisdictions in implementation of awareness and outreach activities, both for civilian population and legal entities.
By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

- Several jurisdictions reported use of deactivation as a method to reduce illegal possession of firearms.
- Legalization campaigns were ongoing or initiated in two of the jurisdictions.
- Voluntary surrender ongoing or initiated in five jurisdictions.
- Support requested on implementation of awareness campaigns.
- Training support requested on better identification of weapons.
Disposal of surplus ammunition through destruction or other means was reported by several jurisdictions;

Destruction of surplus weapons was reported by several jurisdictions and was conducted in public events, mainly 9 July;

One jurisdiction reported destruction of confiscated firearms in 2018;

One jurisdiction reports challenge due to lack of cooperation among prosecutor’s office and courts on confiscated weapons disposal.

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

Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition
PROGRESS REPORT – GOAL 7
KEY FINDINGS

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

- Inspection systems reported to be in place 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.
- Funding support required by all jurisdictions.
THANK YOU