



NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) CONTROL AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2022- 2024





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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
UN	United Nations
SEE	South East Europe
CC	Criminal Code
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MJ	Ministry of Justice
MD	Ministry of Defence
ME	Ministry of Economy
MF	Ministry of Finance
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
MLSG	Ministry of Local Self-Government
MAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
BPPO	Basic Public Prosecutor's Office
NCSALW	National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
NC	National Commission
NGO	Nongovernmental organizations
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
OAP	Operational Action Plans
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council

SEESAC	Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
iARMS	Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
EUROPOL	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
SEEFEN	South East Europe Firearms Experts Network
RACVIAC	Centre for security cooperation
EMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats
CEPOL	Agency of the European Union dedicated to develop, implement and coordinate training for law enforcement officials
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
EUROJUST	European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation

GENERAL PART

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia is committed to ensure prevention, control of weapons, ammunition and explosives and to eradicate illicit weapons proliferation in line with regional and international initiatives, standards and documents on firearms, ammunition and explosives control. For consistent and comprehensive implementation of the Government's commitments, the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons is making efforts to implement its primary task, coordinate the activities of all involved stakeholders (state and nongovernmental bodies and organizations) as well as the numerous interconnected factors that determine the type of interventions for small arms and light weapons control, in accordance with regional and international initiatives, standards and documents on weapons, ammunition and explosives control.

The Republic of North Macedonia participates in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union and NATO activities as part its political commitment to share the goals and priorities of this important common policy of EU and NATO member states. The Republic of North Macedonia, sharing identical foreign policy values with the European Union and NATO, in this way wants to contribute to the global promotion of peace and stability.

As a UN member, the Republic of North Macedonia has been continuously undertaking activities in line with the obligations arising from the relevant conventions and other documents in the field of weapons control and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

In this respect, the Republic of North Macedonia has consistently and fully incorporated the following international documents in its national legislation:

- 1 United Nations Programme of Action (2001) and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (adopted in 2000 and re-issued in 2012),
- 2 Protocol against Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition ratified by the Republic of Macedonia on 10.07.2007, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified on 12.01.2005,
- 3 International Tracing Instrument (ITI),
- 4 Arms Trade Treaty ratified on 23.01.2014.

These endeavours to link the global disarmament agenda and gender equality, including gender-based violence, develop the future roadmap for a more coherent, holistic and effective response on global, regional and national level and would result in the prevention and reduction of violence.

On the other hand, human rights instruments in the area of gender equality, peace and security, small arms and light weapons, and recently the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, increasingly recognize and integrate the gender perspective in their agendas.

This harmonization can also be seen in the increasingly greater inclusion of small arms control issues in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. With the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000), the Security Council for the first time took a look at the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women. In addition to United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, there are nine other resolutions on Women, Peace and Security: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019) and 2493 (2019).

At the same time, as a member of OSCE, the Republic of North Macedonia has been implementing all its obligations arising from the Small Arms and Light Weapons Document adopted by the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation in 2000.

Furthermore, the Republic of North Macedonia is in the phase of implementation of DIRECTIVE (EU) 2021/555 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (codification), while later it would also implement Implementing Directives 19/68 and 19/69.

The 2018 amendments to the Law on Weapons completely encompass the provisions of the Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 2015/2403 of December 2015 establishing common guidelines for deactivation standards and techniques to ensure that firearms are rendered permanently inoperable, which was followed by harmonization of the legislation with Regulation (EU) 2018/337 of 5 March 2018 amending the Implementing Regulation (EC) No. 2015/2403 of 15 December 2015 establishing common guidelines for deactivation standards and techniques in order to ensure that firearms are rendered permanently inoperable.

Furthermore, the European Union adopted Regulation 258/2012 for fighting against arms trafficking by better monitoring and control of the export of civilian firearms from the European Union, including import and transit

measures, as well as the Council Decision 2015/1908/CFSP of 22 October 2015 in support of a global reporting mechanism on illicit small arms and light weapons and other illicit conventional weapons and ammunition to reduce the risk of their illicit trade. Then, building on the European Agenda on Security, on 8 October 2015 the Council invited member states, the Commission, Europol and Interpol to strengthen the use of means of fighting trafficking of firearms. To this end in December 2015 the European Union Action Plan against illicit trafficking of weapons and explosives and the Action Plan on illicit trafficking in firearms between the EU and the South East Europe region (for the period 2015-2019) were adopted.

The Republic of North Macedonia also signed the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development in 2009, adopted on 7 July 2006, with special emphasis on Article 16 item 4, aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies or sustainable development, providing access to justice for all in order to build efficient, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels, with the tendency to significantly reduce illegal financial flows by 2030, as well as to fight against all forms of organized crime.

For the purpose of harmonization with the European regulations, upon the proposal of the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons, a working group was formed to work on a new draft Law on Explosives for Civil Use that would include the two previous laws, the Law on Trade in Explosives and the Law on Protection from Explosives, that would be harmonized with the following directives:

- Commission Directive 2008/43/EC of 4 April 2008 setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil use;
- Commission Directive 2012/4/EC of 22 February 2012 amending Directive 2008/43/EC setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil use;

- Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles (recast); 26 February 2014 on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market explosives for civil uses (recast);
- Directive 2014/28/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses (recast);
- Commission Implementing Directive 2014/58/EU of 16 April 2014 setting up, pursuant to Directive 2007/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, a system for the traceability of pyrotechnic articles; and Regulation (EU) no. 98/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the marketing and use of explosive precursors.

In 2021 the procedure for drafting a new Law on Development, Production and Trade of Military Equipment was finalized, after which it was adopted and published in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia no. 298/12* and it is partially harmonized with the related EU regulations.

On 5 July 2010, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia passed a Decision for the adoption of the Common Position of the Council of the European Union 2008/944/CFSP laying down common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment, and its User's Guide to Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008 defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment (2015 edition) and Directive 2009/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products within the Community. Further work is necessary to harmonise the legislation with Directive 2009/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the coordination of procedures for the award of certain works contracts, supply contracts and services contracts by contracting authorities or entities in the fields of defence and security, and amending Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC.

The legislation of the Republic of North Macedonia is fully harmonized with Council Regulation (EC) no. 428/2009 of 5 May 2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual use items, as well as its amendments 2020/1749 of 7 October 2020. With respect to Regulation 2020/1749 of 7 October 2020, the plan is for the Law on Control of Exports of Dual Use Items and Technologies to be harmonized with it during 2022.

Under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Union and the Regional Cooperation Council, SEE-SAC organized a regional high-level meeting of the deputy ministers of interior and foreign affairs from Tirana, Sarajevo, Prishtina, Chisinau, Podgorica, Belgrade and Skopje on 1 February 2018 in Podgorica, Montenegro.

The meeting reiterated an explicit political commitment of all actors in the region towards reinforced small arms control and non-proliferation that was confirmed through the adoption of a Joint Statement. In addition, recognizing that the proliferation and illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition pose a constant threat to internal security, the regional authorities have committed themselves to develop a Roadmap for finding a sustainable solution for illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition in the Western Balkans.

The purpose of this Roadmap is to serve as a document prepared and owned by regional authorities that everyone agrees with and which should provide guidelines for finding a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition in the Western Balkans. This document is a testament to the achieved consensus among all stakeholders in the region on the current challenges, the general goals to be achieved, and the timeframe for the actions to be taken.

This document is also an instrument for measuring the progress and guidebook for more organized and synergistic support of the region in this area, which leads to efficient and effective use of donor resources. The Roadmap will be put to use by adapted action plans that will be integrated in and will support existing SALW strategies and the national action plans with measurable targets and specific indicators in relation to which the progress can be measured at local and regional level.

The Roadmap was prepared based on the Joint Statement of the deputy ministers of the interior and the deputy ministers of foreign affairs from South-East Europe and the elements of the Roadmap adopted at the Podgorica meeting. In addition, consultative meetings were held with the commissions on small arms and light weapons throughout the region, ensuring regional ownership and sustainability of the results. In an attempt to ensure comprehensive approach and full ownership of the envisaged measures, consultations were held with the local communities, civil society representatives, as well as regional and international partners.

Successful implementation of the Roadmap requires joint efforts of the governments in the Western Balkans, as well as timely, targeted and coordinated support from international partners and donors.

On 28-29 May 2018, the authorities of the Western Balkan countries met in Tirana at the 9th Regional Meeting of the SALW Commissions, where they consolidated the final draft version and presented it to the German Federal Foreign Office to be incorporated into the agenda of the Berlin Process. The official adoption of this document took place at the EU and Western Balkans Summit in London on 10 July 2018.

Every six months the national commission organized local coordinative meetings to present the progress towards the goals in the Roadmap and also participates in regional coordination meetings with other representatives of the national commissions for light arms and small weapons control from the Western Balkan countries.

The Republic of North Macedonia follows the implementation of the 2020-2025 European Union Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking, where the Roadmap is fully integrated.

The use and availability of illicit small arms and light weapons disturbs the rule of law, increases the crime rate, affects the country's stability and is an obstacle to social and economic development.

The big number of interrelated factors that determine the type of intervention for small arms and light weapons control and the later outcome require the involvement of many organizations in that process. Their efforts should be planned, coordinated and/or guided, to help implement the National Action Plan. Coordination is one of the primary tasks of the National Commission

on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which is an entity at a national level that provides advice, coordinates and monitors the implementation of the National Small Arms Control Strategy and the Action Plan.

The control of small arms and light weapons refers to those activities that jointly aim at reducing the social, economic and environmental consequences of uncontrolled proliferation and possession of small arms and light weapons. They include: control at border crossings, legislation and regulatory measures, strategies for raising public awareness about small arms and light weapons, activities for collecting and destroying small arms and light weapons, information management and small and light weapons stock management as well as other activities aimed at reducing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The Strategy for Small Arms and Light Weapons Control is synchronized with other strategies in the country related to the areas of terrorism, border police, intelligence-guided policing, strategy for community engagement and communication.

DEFINITION

There is no established international definition of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in domestic and international literature. The practical and extensive use and misuse of firearms, and especially for small arms and light weapons, imposes the need for its legal regulation, and above all its defining.

In the 1990s the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms came up with what they called 'a definition', but in fact it is an incomplete list of weapon types, which is difficult to use in any diplomatic and operational environment. This "definition" segregates SALW in three categories:

- **Small arms:** Revolvers and self-repeating (semi-automatic) pistols; guns and carbines; submachine guns (SMG); assault weapons (automatic weapons) and light machine guns (LMG).
- **Light weapons:** Heavy Machine Guns (HMG); assault: grenade launchers which are mounted on the barrel of a rifle; man-portable anti-aircraft weapons; man-portable anti-tank weapons; recoilless guns; man-portable anti-tank missile launchers and missile systems; man-portable air defence missile launchers and mortars (caliber smaller than 100 mm).
- **Ammunitions and explosives:** small arms cartridges (magazines); light weapon grenades and missiles; portable containers with single-use missiles or grenades and air defence and anti-tank systems; anti-personnel and anti-tank grenades; landmines and explosives.

In general, it is accepted that the term SALW refers to weapons and ammunition with a caliber smaller than 100 mm. They include not only rifles, pistols and automatic weapons, but also mortars, man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS), anti-tank missiles, conventional explosives and detonators.

In South-East Europe the following definition of small arms and light weapons is currently used: "All conventional lethal weapons and ammunitions that could be carried by individuals or mounted on light vehicles and that do not require additional logistical support and maintenance facilities".

An additional explanation could be that small arms encompass hand guns of small caliber, i.e. pistols, rifles, shotguns, carbines, all kinds of semi-automatic guns, as well as all types of automatic guns and portable machine guns, while the light weapons encompass a wide range of medium-caliber firearms and explosive devices, including anti-personnel, anti-tank and air-defence rockets, missiles, grenades, missile launchers, mines, air-defence machine guns, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), etc. that are man-portable or could be mounted on vehicles.

Bearing in mind the above, we could say that "small arms" are the firearms commonly used for personal protection that could be used independently by one person, while "light weapons" are firearms intended to be used by a crew of several members. In addition, small arms and light weapons include all types of ammunition used for such types of weapons, including grenades, rockets, missiles, grenades and man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS).

According to the International Tracing Instrument (ITI): small arms and light weapons would encompass any lethal weapon that could be carried by one person and which fires or discharges or is designed to fire or discharge or could be easily modified to fire or discharge a bullet, or a missile using the action of gunpowder gases including antique small arms and light weapons and their replicas. Antique small arms and light weapons and their replicas should be defined in accordance with domestic legislation and in no case they should include weapons that were produced after 1899.



- “small arms” in the broader sense refer to any firearms intended for individual use including, inter alia, revolvers and semi-automatic and automatic guns, rifles and carbines, machine guns, assault rifles (automatic rifles) and light machine guns;
- “light weapons” in the broader sense refer to any firearms intended to be used by two or three persons serving as crew members, although some of them may be carried and used by one person. Among other things, this includes: heavy machine guns, hand grenades and mounting grenade launchers, man-portable air-defence weapons, man-portable anti-tank weapons, recoilless guns, man-portable anti-tank missile launchers and rocket systems, man-portable air-defence missile launchers and mortars with a caliber smaller than 100 mm.

Regarding the term “proliferation”, it refers to illicit trafficking and transit of small arms and light weapons, their components and ammunition through the territory of a state, as well as development, manufacturing, procurement and use of small arms and light weapons and their use by authoritarian regimes, criminal terrorist groups or individuals in order to cause casualties and destruction of property.

“Firearm” refers to any portable barreled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, unless it is excluded from that definition with a related law and is categorized in the legislation. It is considered that the weapons can be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive if:

- has the appearance of a firearm and
- as a result of its construction or the material it is made of, it can be converted into such.

All the definitions included in this strategy are in accordance with the terms referenced in the relevant legislation.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The goals envisaged in the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy and the Action Plan were guided by the following principles:

1.	The National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy is based on the provisions in the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, in the laws and by-laws, as well as international legal instruments;
2.	Human Rights Protection – Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia are equal in their freedoms and rights, regardless of sex, race, colour of skin, national and social origin, political and religious beliefs, property and social status. All citizens are equal before the Constitution and law;
3.	Principle of guaranteeing safety for all citizens – Acting in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Police with regard to ensuring the general safety of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia and all other persons who live permanently or temporarily on its territory;
4.	Principle of health care – The treatment of persons who are victims to firearms-related incidents based on the principles of health care in accordance with relevant laws and by-laws on health care;
5.	Principle of continuity – The small arms and light weapons control issue requires continuous and integrated approach to all institutions and relevant actors;
6.	Principle for exchange of experience, responsibilities and good practice – this principle refers to the exchange of experience, responsibilities and good practice, sharing responsibilities at all levels and an integrated approach of all stakeholders in the area of firearms control;
7.	Right to access public information – this principle encompasses rights and responsibilities to inform all citizens in the country about the risks and consequences of using small arms and light weapons;
8.	Principle of equal opportunities for women and men – this principle refers to establishing equal opportunities for women and men in line with relevant legislation in this field.

IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION WITH SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The Republic of North Macedonia adopted its first Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy in 2005, and during its implementation the legal framework was in large part aligned with the relevant European standards and regulations.

Illegal small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives have been easily accessible in the Republic of North Macedonia for several decades now. They are mainly left over from the Western Balkan conflicts. The risk of criminal misuse is high and criminals use them in various occasions, such as protection of human trafficking routes, inner conflicts, intimidation, as well as racketeering, etc. Having in mind the accessibility of automatic weapons and guns on the illegal market, it is highly likely that support groups are able to send these types of weapons to prepare and execute attacks on other locations in the EU. In addition to the threat for North Macedonia to be involved in the illicit arms trade, as well as for conversion of weapons, these weapons also impact everyday life in the country, where there have been several incidents such as murders and attempted murders, domestic violence incidents and robberies.

In the most recent Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment – SOCTA 2021, which was finalized in December 2021, illicit trade in firearms is the priority. According to the Assessment, weapons are illegally traded and trafficked at the points of entry and during transit through the country's territory, with a spike in converted firearms. The sale of pistols and hunting weapons dominate the illegal market. Firearms are often used to commit robberies and other crimes, while trade in illegal firearms is increasingly more frequent

as a side criminal activity of organized crime groups committing semi-criminal acts.

According to the 2021 RCC Securimeter, 23% of the Macedonian citizens feel very threatened, while 33% feel threatened from illegal possession, which makes up more than 50% of the entire population. This is above the Western Balkan average of 12% feeling very threatened and 35% threatened. 14% of the population in North Macedonia would consider owning a gun, which is the highest share in the Western Balkans, 56% of which said that they would try to procure a firearm for personal protection or safety. This is also reflected in the large number of requests for protection by private security companies in the country.

In the country there are around 180 thousand pieces of registered firearms. It can be said that legally registered firearms in the Republic of North Macedonia and the level of applications for registration are constant. Latest statistical data shows that the majority of applications for procurement of firearms are related to pistols and hunting and sports firearms, as well as pneumatic weapons (Table 1). It should be noted that pistols are easily hidden, and are also the most reported firearms by the police. Following the recent amendments to the EU Firearms Directive and the subsequent planned amendments to the Law on Weapons, specific focus shall be placed on these types of weapons with bigger magazines, with a capacity of more than 20 rounds for short firearms and more than 10 rounds for long firearms.

Table 1

	2018		2019		2020	
	Application	Approved	Application	Approved	Application	Approved
B1	2482	543	2445	751	1773	567
B2	2	0	9	1	0	0
B3	2	2	1	1	0	0
B4	63	15	24	4	13	3
B5	1	1	0	0	0	0
B6	18	7	20	9	7	4
B7	37	2	38	5	53	7
C1	1077	320	1116	511	787	385
C2	35	13	14	29	10	5
C3	1376	265	2012	753	1486	732
C4	2	2	6	38	0	0
C5	953	220	1107	499	740	380
C6	0	0	0	9	1	
C7	41	19	15	4	16	10
C8	84	23	89	18	38	11
C9	4	1	1	1	5	11
Total	6177	1433	6897	2633	4929	2105
D1	1083		1830		2565	
D2	19		5		74	
D3	42		29		4	
D4	0		105		2	
Total	1144		1969		2645	

The data from the table above can be confirmed with the fact the mainly pistols and hunting rifles are imported in the Republic of North Macedonia from the following countries of production: pistols – Austria, the Czech Republic, Brazil and Italy and smaller quantities from Turkey, Germany and Hungary. Hunting rifles are mainly imported from Turkey, Italy, Greece, Finland and the Czech Republic. This means that the majority of firearms comes from the EU and Turkey, even though import remains modest.

In addition, having in mind the fact that there are many citizens who own gun licenses in accordance with the previous Law on Acquiring, Possession and Carrying Weapons, there is a need to fully replace, that is, re-register the old licenses with new ones, in accordance with the Law on Weapons, as per the EU categorization, so the level of registered firearms can be considered low.

Great efforts are needed to ensure that the citizens respect the Law on Weapons.

According to the study of UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes) – Measuring Organized Crime in the Western Balkans, trade in firearms in the Western Balkans is mainly regional, however the high prices of weapons on markets outside of the region also lead to trade in firearms from the Western Balkans to other parts of Europe, Western Asia and North America. While the bulk of convictions for firearms trafficking involve small-scale trafficking, organized criminal groups traffic firearms within the region to enforce discipline, to intimidate rival groups or to ensure the protection of a group’s own activities and members. Anecdotal evidence shows linkages between arms and drug markets, theft and petty crime. The document does not mention illegal firearms trafficking as a priority area in organized crime in North Macedonia, however various country profiles imply that North Macedonia is mainly a transit country, particularly for signal pistols.



Organized crime increasingly uses the internet (Surface and Dark Net) globally, including the sale of weapons, ammunition and explosives. It should be determined to what level this is present in the Republic of North Macedonia, but there are indications that protected platforms are a tool that can be used.

The EU Progress Report 2020 for the Republic of North Macedonia states the following:

On small arms and light weapons, there are tangible results with 100 pieces of firearms seized. In 2019, more than 600 pieces of weapons were destroyed. In 2019, 138 criminal offences on illegal production, possession and trading in weapons or explosives were detected, for which 153 perpetrators were criminally charged. Four employees for the Minister of the Interior were nominated as focus points for firearms.

The data below provide more detailed figures about weapons seized in 2018, 2019 and 2020:

Table 2

	2018	2019	2020
Total	167	150	171
Pistol	86	76	63
Automatic rifle	11	6	14
Revolver	7	8	10
Hand grenades	6	10	14
Semiautomatic guns	3	2	5
Pneumatic rifle	3		10
Craft weapons	3	1	
Alarm and signal weapons	4	5	12
Small caliber weapons	2		2
Hunting rifles	24	35	36
Light machine gun	1		3
Rocket launcher	1		
Mine	1	1	
Ammunition	5382	5096	7180

The above table shows that the seizures of weapons are constant with around 160 pieces on average, however this is one of the lowest number of seized weapons in the Western Balkans. Seized weapons are often from the category of pistols and hunting weapons.

The report further states that while some national legislation under the 'old approach' to product legislation was designed to align with the EU *acquis*, there was no progress on the EU Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). Nor was there progress on chemicals, classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, good laboratory practices, or fertilizers and detergents. While the national legal framework is designed to align with the EU *acquis* on firearms, no progress was made on strengthening administrative capacity in this area.

The comment about the EU regulation on registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH) might be particularly important for the regulation of explosives precursors.

The situation and the analysis of crime in the Republic of North Macedonia does not finish with the provision of the abovementioned statistical data from the Ministry of Interior, since it is necessary to actively involve the competent public prosecutors' offices and courts. Namely, competent public prosecutors' offices should provide data about the processing of criminal acts, while competent courts about proceedings' outcomes, i.e. the type and the severity of the pronounced sanctions and the courts penal policies. This data is relevant from the aspect of assessing the efficiency of the competent state bodies in sanctioning this type of crime, as well as for raising public awareness about the seriousness of committing such acts and the strict sanctions envisaged for such acts.

Also, for further strategic planning, an analysis was conducted for horizon scanning about the emerging trends in the EU that might affect the Western Balkans. Specific risks such as 3D printing, ghost guns, firearms made of parts from different manufacturers, reactivated weapons, Flobert guns, as well as tools for conversion were analyzed for the purpose of addressing vulnerabilities in the legislative framework and the operational procedures for fighting these risks. In addition, more work needs to be done about Internet investigations as well as discoveries during parcel deliveries.

Furthermore, to support the implementation of the Roadmap assessments are underway and recommendations are in the phase of implementation:

1. Table about the alignment of relevant related laws with the EU regulatory framework: legislation will be appropriately amended;
2. Comparison of the Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol: the Criminal Code is being amended;
3. Evaluation of the Law on Criminal Procedure and conducting investigations on the Internet: Surface web and Darknet: recommendations that need to be addressed;
4. Assessment of the Border Police needs: the assessment report has been accepted and the recommendations are being fully implemented;
5. Assessment of the Criminal Police needs: the needs of the Criminal Police have been assessed and a group of experts is currently writing recommendations;
6. Report on gender aspects of legislation: the assessment report has been accepted and the recommendations will be reviewed. Below are sections of this report.

Ownership and access to firearms are very gendered.

The number of firearm licence-holders in the Republic of North Macedonia has been on the rise, from 160,516 in 2012 to 173,704 in 2016 – an increase of 8.2%. Consequently, the number of registered firearms owned by civilians has increased from 165,815 in 2012 to 179,161 in 2016, with a total increase of 8%. Men account for 99.5% of firearm licence-holders during these five years, while the number of women holding firearm licences remained 0.5% throughout the year. In 2016, 172,790 men and 914 women held firearm licences. Between 2012 and 2016 men acquired 99.1% of all licences, compared to 0.9% acquired by women. In 2016 only, 33,781 men and 254 women applied for new licences. Men between the ages of 36 and 60 account for 51.8% of all applicants, followed by men between 18 and 35 with 43.8%. Among the women, those between the ages of 36 and 60 were most likely to apply for licences, which is 60.8% of all women applicants.

Differentiated impacts of firearms on women and men. In the Republic of North Macedonia a total of 1,833 firearms-related crimes were registered between 2012 and 2016. 97.7% of firearms-related crimes were committed by men, while only 2.3% by women.

Firearms were the most used instrument for committing murder between 2012 and 2016 or 58.6% of the homicides (or 75 out of 128) involved firearms. Out of the total structure of homicides of women and men, firearms-related deaths were common for both women and men. Two thirds of murdered men and less than one in two women were murdered with firearms. Men make up the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides, 76% of all homicides, compared to 24% of women. This translates into 57 reported firearm-related homicide cases where victims were men and 18 cases where victims were women. Men account for 78.7% and women 21.3% of people injured with firearms. However, in relation to misuse of firearms, suicides account for the majority of all firearm-related deaths with 56.1%, followed by homicides (41.7%) and accidental deaths (2.2%). There is no data on gender and age about the number of firearm-related suicides.

Misuse of firearms and domestic violence. Every third homicide in the Republic of North Macedonia was committed in a domestic context. Between 2012 and 2016, 42 persons were killed by family members, whether by firearm or by other means, which accounts for 32.8% of all homicides in the country. Domestic violence affects both women and men, where men comprise 64.3% of persons killed by a family member during the survey period (27), while women comprise 35.7% of the victims (15). Out of all murders committed in a domestic context, 23.8% were committed by the intimate partner. Violence by an intimate partner with a lethal outcome disproportionately affects women, with a distinct gender differentiation. Women account for all victims killed by the intimate partner, with no reported cases of men killed by intimate partners in the research period. Homicides by intimate partners account for the overwhelming majority (66.7%) of women killed in a domestic setting. Also, one in four women killed in this period were killed by a former or current intimate partner. During this period, not a single application was refused on the basis of domestic violence in the Republic of North Macedonia¹ and the fact that Article 12 of the Law 10-4024/10 allows for an application for firearm licence to be rejected on the basis of “disturbed relationships in the family” and “domestic violence”.

Marginal 2.4% percent were revoked in 2012 on the basis of domestic violence, but this share increased to 7.9% in 2016.

Gendered aspects of firearms demand and misuse. The majority (76%) of respondents in the Republic of North Macedonia said they would not own a gun. Women (85%) are more likely than men (64%) to report that they do not own a gun.

The majority of respondents (42%) who would own a gun were men between 16 and 34 years of age and over 65. Respondents think that the presence of a gun at home would make them feel less safe (58%) rather than safer (42%). More men (49%) than women (37%) responded that having a gun at home improves safety.

¹ OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women: North Macedonia - Results Report, 2019



GOAL OF THE NATIONAL SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS CONTROL STRATEGY

The National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy is a general framework of activities of the Republic of North Macedonia aimed at control, prevention and eradication of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their components, as well ammuni-

tion and explosives. It is a guidebook for improving the existing and developing new measures, mechanisms and instruments for control, prevention and eradication of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their components and ammunition.

AIM

To create a safer environment and control of small arms and light weapons in the society in order to improve the conditions for improving the general security in the Republic of North Macedonia.

STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1:

BY 2023 TO ENSURE THAT THE LEGISLATION ON FIREARMS CONTROL IS ALIGNED WITH THE EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

1.1 Develop laws and bylaws on firearms, ammunition and explosives for civil and military use and precursors (including legal possession, deactivation, storage, manufacturing, retail, trade, transit, import-export, training, marking, non-convertible firearms, retrieval, keeping records and supervision, explosives and precursors) and their harmonization with the UN, OSCE and EU standards

Activities

- 1.1.1 Develop laws and bylaws on explosives for civil use
- 1.1.2 Develop laws and bylaws on weapons
- 1.1.3 Harmonise the Law on Weapons with the Law on Testing, Marking and Labelling Firearms and Ammunition
- 1.1.4 Develop bylaws for the Law on Development, Manufacturing and Trade of Military Equipment
- 1.1.5 Conduct a desk review and develop a Law on Explosive Precursors
- 1.1.6 Increase the implementation capacities through planning, training for human resources and technical equipment

1.2 Alignment of the legal framework of the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Procedure and firearms control with the UN Firearms Protocol and other relevant international documents

Activities

- 1.2.1 Amending the Criminal Code in accordance with the recommendations from the Assessment of Harmonization of CC with UNFP, prepared by UNODC
- 1.2.2 Conduct a gap analysis of the Law on Criminal Procedure regarding electronic evidence as well as amend the Law on Criminal Procedure when necessary

1.3 Ensure harmonization of firearms and explosives categorization and the relevant legal framework, which contributes to the direct operational cooperation

Activities

- 1.3.1 Participation in a regional workshop on harmonization and bilateral contacts with Western Balkans jurisdictions during the transition period for the legal framework on explosives for civil use

1.4 Ensure that an analysis is made on the implementation of relevant legislation and institutional practices to prevent firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence and violence by intimate partners

Activities

- 1.4.1 Implement the recommendations from the gender screening report
- 1.4.2 Ensure that an analysis is conducted on the implementation of national legislation and institutional practices on prevention of domestic violence and violence against partners
- 1.4.3 Develop tools and conduct trainings on gender aspects related to risk assessment in firearm-related domestic violence

1.5 Ensure development tools and conduct training for relevant professionals on gender-sensitive licence approval and risk assessment of firearm-related domestic violence

Activities

- 1.5.1 Include gender-sensitive tools in the legislation on firearms
- 1.5.2 Participation in relevant trainings
- 1.5.3 Make a risk assessment for police officers (patrol officers, emergency centre and senior officers)
- 1.5.4 Risk assessment training for officials

GOAL 2:

BY 2024 TO ENSURE THAT FIREARM CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES ARE EVIDENCE-BASED AND INTELLIGENCE-LED

2.1 Strengthen the role and capacities of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission

Activities

- 2.1.1 Establish procedures in the Rules of Procedure of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission and ensure balanced participation of women and men in the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission; make sure to establish a mechanism for engagement of civil society organisations working on gender equality and gender-based violence in the development of policies on small arms and light weapons control
- 2.1.2 Conduct trainings on gender aspects of small arms and light weapons for the members of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission and all other institutions responsible for implementation of small arms and light weapons control policies
- 2.1.3 Conduct an analysis of the implementation of relevant legislation and institutional practices for prevention of firearm misuse in the context of domestic violence and active partner violence/violence against intimate partners

2.2 Operationalisation of national firearms focal points in line with European Union guidelines

Activities

- 2.2.1 Re-connect necessary databases with Ibase: WRMS, CEMS, IMS etc.
- 2.2.2 Monitoring and analysis of crime related to firearms, ammunition and explosives, with data segregated by gender and age
- 2.2.3 Improve national analytical capacities and institutionalise the firearms data analysis
- 2.2.4 Establish a system for data collection in all relevant institutions in relation to impacts of firearms and its distribution
- 2.2.5 Conduct an impact study

2.3 Strengthening capacities for working on intelligence-based policies related to illegal possession of firearms/IAT

Activities

- 2.3.1 Apply intelligence-led policing for firearm-related crime
- 2.3.2 Introduce a mandatory framework for operational information
- 2.3.3 Finalise the police information system (IMS), make it operational and connect it to the national firearms contact point

2.4 Ensure the exchange of operational and strategic information, data, intelligence products as well as evidence with Europol, Frontex, Eurojust and Interpol

Activities

- 2.4.1 Analyze the option to join the regionally agreed mandatory exchange of data for all users in the Western Balkans, that would allow for improvement of proactive investigations on national, regional and international level
- 2.4.2 Implement a regionally agreed procedure for sharing of ballistic data

2.5 Strengthening the cooperation and participation in relevant regional and international training centres/Participating in regional and international conferences and seminars in the area of small arms and light weapons as well as explosives and precursors

Activities

- 2.5.1 Regularly contribute to regional processes and mechanisms as part of the Roadmap, SEEFEN, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission, the national firearms focal point, RACVIAC, EMPACT and others
- 2.5.2 Participate in EMPACT Operational Action Plans (OAPs) on illicit firearm trafficking and participate in relevant operational actions
- 2.5.3 Participate in specific trainings, such as SEESAC, CEPOL etc.

2.6 Ensure that reporting requirements are met, in accordance with various agreements with regional and international organisations in the area of firearms control

Activities

- 2.6.1 Reporting through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to the UN, OSCE, ATT and other related international instruments
- 2.6.2 Reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution for illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024
- 2.6.3 Reporting on firearms export
- 2.6.4 Reporting to UNODC on the UN Illicit arms flows questionnaire (UN-IAFQ)

2.7 Improving the capacities and capabilities for marking, retrieving and record keeping for small arms and light weapons, explosives and explosive precursors

Activities

- 2.7.1 Implementation of a new software for firearms registration and issuance for firearms licenses to legal entities and natural persons, as well as establishing a computerized system for registration of import, export and transit licenses and an online tracking system for the firearms on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, including firearms warehouses of legal entities (WRMS)
- 2.7.2 Ensure tracking of lost and stolen firearms through INTERPOL's iARMS and develop SOP on tracking reports
- 2.7.3 Develop a software for explosives control, including the possibility for tracing
- 2.7.4 Develop a system for licensing explosive precursors and documenting suspicious transfers
- 2.7.5 Procure a machine for marking, marking at import and deactivation and conduct training
- 2.7.6 Attend training on serial number renewal

2.8 Mainstreaming gender and age issues in SALW control policies and ensuring meaningful participation of women in SALW control

- Activities**
- 2.8.1 Ensure equal participation of women in small arms and light weapons control
 - 2.8.2 Conduct an analysis of the implementation of relevant legislation and institutional practices to prevent misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence and violence by intimate partners
 - 2.8.3 Develop tools and conduct trainings for relevant professionals for granting licenses for gender-sensitive situations and risk assessment for firearms-related domestic violence
 - 2.8.4 Develop preventive measures to address gender and other factors that drive firearms demand and misuse, particularly targeted at young men
 - 2.8.5 Establish a mechanism for inclusion of relevant gender mechanisms and civil society organisations working on gender equality and gender-based violence in the development of SALW control policies

2.9 Institutionalization of systematic collection of criminal and legal data from the police and the customs administration, the prosecutor's office, courts and penitentiary-correctional facilities

- Activities**
- 2.9.1 Establish a working group about data for firearms-related crimes, collected in accordance with the illicit arms flows questionnaire
 - 2.9.2 Agree upon a common methodology for collecting data on firearms-related crime in order to improve the process of filling in the illicit arms flows questionnaire - IAFQ
 - 2.9.3 Conduct a study to evaluate court practices in firearms-related crime

2.10 Establishing a data collection system in all relevant institutions about the impacts of firearms and their distribution

- Activities**
- 2.10.1 Develop a database for the firearms focal point and identify relevant databases that could provide data
 - 2.10.2 Draft SOP on firearms-related crime data collection

2.11 Establish a mechanism for participation of relevant gender mechanisms (such as representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and civil society organisations working on gender equality and gender-based violence in the development of small arms and light weapons control policies

- Activities**
- 2.11.1 Establish a working group to set up relevant gender mechanisms and institutional monitoring of gender equality issues, with the engagement of experts from competent institutions and relevant NGOs

GOAL 3:**BY 2024 TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES (TOWARDS, WITHIN AND FROM THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA)****3.1 Improving the capacities for detection, identification and testing with the goal of preventing and combating ammunition and explosives trafficking****Activities**

- 3.1.1 Conduct a Border Police needs assessment and subsequent activities following the recommendations about SOPs, equipment, etc.
- 3.1.2 Conduct a Criminal Police needs assessment and subsequent activities following the recommendations about SOPs, equipment, etc.
- 3.1.3 Develop procedures for documenting seized ammunition, hand grenades and explosives
- 3.1.4 Conduct risk analysis, according to the methodology of CIRAM and WCO (World Custom Organization)
- 3.1.5 Further develop K9 capacities
- 3.1.6 Conduct activities for detecting illegal trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and explosives through postal packages
- 3.1.7 Improve the capacities for online investigations, including Internet and Darknet analysis, use of crypto currencies and encrypted platforms such as Telegram
- 3.1.8 Improve the capacities for using electronic evidence in cross-border investigations into firearms and organized crime

3.2 Enhancing the capacities of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office for investigation, prosecution and trial of firearms-related crime**Activities**

- 3.2.1 Develop Guidelines on conducting investigations and prosecuting firearms-related crime and integrating it in the curriculum of the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors
- 3.2.2 Improve inter-institutional cooperation and coordination in implementation of procedures in the police, the customs administration and the public prosecutor's office
- 3.2.3 Enhance the capacities of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office for prosecuting and sentencing firearms-related cases
- 3.2.4 Access of the national firearms focal point to the prosecutors
- 3.2.5 Access of forensic experts to prosecutors

3.3 National control of import, export, trading, brokerage, transit, manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons and explosives**Activities**

- 3.3.1 Provide guidelines for legal entities in terms of internal control
- 3.3.2 Develop risk assessment guidelines in accordance with international agreements (Common position of EU, ATT and other relevant documents) and training for government officials
- 3.3.3 Harmonize the list of military equipment with the EU List
- 3.3.4 Implement a programme for further support to certification during and after delivery, including aligning the end user certificate, engaging the Embassy employees and cooperation with other relevant embassies
- 3.3.5 Improve the transparency of firearms import and export
- 3.3.6 Establish a control mechanism for licensing, trading and using explosive precursors

3.4 Strengthening operational cooperation and participation in EMPACT joint action days, operational action plans and joint investigation teams

- Activities**
- 3.4.1 Further expand the participation in joint action days as part of EMPACT, in addition to Joint action days Western Balkans
 - 3.4.2 Conduct training on preparing agreements for joint investigation teams for the legal services, in accordance with EU JIT model agreement and JIT practical guide
 - 3.4.3 Participate in joint investigation teams when necessary

GOAL 4:

BY 2024 TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE SUPPLY, DEMAND AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS THROUGH RAISING AWARENESS, OUTREACH AND REPRESENTATION AND TO REDUCE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ILLEGALLY OWNED FIREARMS

4.1 Significantly increase the number of seized illegal firearms, ammunition and explosives

- Activities**
- 4.1.1 Implement ILP operations based on knowledge products prepared by the national firearms focal point and analysts
 - 4.1.2 Inform schools to hand over all materials left over from territorial defence training
 - 4.1.3 Conduct online investigations into illicit firearms trafficking
 - 4.1.4 Establish joint operational teams between relevant criminal police departments

4.2 Conduct activities for voluntary surrender and collection of firearms and their legalization

- Activities**
- 4.2.1 Provide a legal framework for voluntary surrender and legalization
 - 4.2.2 Carry out campaigns for voluntary surrender and legalization, including awareness raising campaigns

4.3 Raising awareness on deactivation and deactivation as a means to legalize firearms in order to reduce the illicit possession of firearms

- Activities**
- 4.3.1 Implement a programme for permanent deactivation of temporarily deactivated firearms
 - 4.3.2 Establish a legal framework for deactivation of firearms, including trophy weapons
 - 4.3.3 Conduct awareness campaigns on deactivation

4.4 Increase the administrative capacities and guided activities for full re-registration within the prescribed time, as well address appropriately discovered and inherited firearms

- Activities**
- 4.4.1 Analyze the old database and re-categorize unregistered firearms
 - 4.4.2 Carry out campaigns to inform concerned citizens about legal options and consequences
 - 4.4.3 Operational activities targeted at citizens who will not register

4.5 Raise citizens' awareness about the danger of using small arms and light weapons and pyrotechnics, with the goal of reducing the misuse of firearms and pyrotechnics in the community

- Activities**
- 4.5.1 Carry out awareness raising campaigns with precise timeframes and goals
 - 4.5.2 Conduct preventive activities by the police
 - 4.5.3 Develop a Practical guide on the national firearms legislation

4.6 Raising awareness among licensed natural persons and legal entities about the dangers of misusing and illegal proliferation of firearms/Raising awareness about the risk of diversion by manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and explosives

- Activities**
- 4.6.1 Implement an internal programme on compliance
 - 4.6.2 Implement a programme on internal compliance

4.7 Develop sustainable partnerships in order to enhance lobbying and information distribution to reach message multipliers

- Activities**
- 4.7.1 Implement activities for cooperation with archery, hunting and training associations
 - 4.7.2 Outreach and potential cooperation with women and youth NGOs
 - 4.7.3 Outreach and potential cooperation with media

4.8 Increase public trust in security institutions and enhancing communication and capacities to help public safety institutions

- Activities**
- 4.8.1 Examine the synchronization with policies of community policing
 - 4.8.2 Enhance the cooperation with the police unit in charge of strategies, with the goal of reducing police intervention times and potential public survey about the trust in the police and level of satisfaction

4.9 Address gender and other factors that drive demand and misuse of firearms, particularly targeting young men

- Activities**
- 4.9.1 Develop preventive measures to address gender and other factors that drive demand and misuse of firearms, particularly targeted at young men

GOAL 5:	SYSTEMATICALLY REDUCE SURPLUS AND DESTROY SEIZED SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION AND TRANSFER OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES
5.1 Systematically and publically destroy discovered and confiscated firearms and ammunition	
Activities	5.1.1 Regularly organize events to publicly destroy firearms and ammunition based on SOP for destruction and operational action plans (OAP) agreed between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the Protection and Rescue Directorate and the Agency for management of seized property, as well as the prosecutor's office
5.2 Improve stock management and reduce surplus of small arms and light weapons and ammunition by destroying them in an environmentally harmless manner, in accordance with IATG and/or other international standards	
Activities	5.2.1 Calculate the surplus and identify potential locations 5.2.2 Conduct training for inspectors in the area of IATG and certify them in accordance with the OH Safer guard programme 5.2.3 Develop procedures on storage safety (programme for keeping, handling and storing firearms and ammunition for the forestry police)
5.3. Strengthen inspection capacities and improve the management of small arms and light weapons lifecycle/Inspection by state institutions and legal entities	
Activities	5.3.1 Further develop the Life Cycle Management project (LCM) for ammunition in the Ministry of Defence
5.4 Provide safe and secure storage facilities for small arms and light weapons/firearms and ammunition	
Activities	5.4.1 Conduct a study on safety and security and net explosive quantity (NEQ) in all ammunition storage facilities that belong to the Ministry of Interior and to legal entities and to determine explosive limit licences (ELL) and safety zones 5.4.2 Carry out training for inspectors in the area of IATG and certify them in accordance with the UN Safer guard programme

NATIONAL SALW COMMISSION

Role of the National SALW Commission

The primary role of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission is to plan, coordinate and implement SALW control measures at national level in order to provide safer environment and control of small arms and light weapons in the society, thus creating conditions for improving the general security in the country.

Tasks of the National SALW Commission:

- a) Identify and determine the impact of SALW on society, security and economic-social development of the country;
- b) Define the priorities in SALW control intervention and NAP implementation;
- c) Determine and develop operational intervention measures for SALW control that result from the goal;
- d) Develop and expand the National SALW Action Plan;
- e) Provide sufficient resources and mobilize them when necessary to implement the National SALW Action Plan;
- f) Approve detailed SALW proposals, intervention by all relevant stakeholders, including legislative issues for support to the National SALW Action Plan;
- g) Coordinate the activities of all relevant stakeholders to support the National SALW Action Plan;
- h) Provide timely information to all relevant stakeholders to support the National Action Plan;
- i) Monitor all components of the undertaken SALW measures and activities to support the National SALW Action Plan;
- j) Assess all components of the SALW measures and activities in support of the National SALW Action Plan;
- k) Update the National SALW Action Plan in accordance with changing conditions;
- l) Report to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs about the undertaken SALW measures and activities in accordance with the UN SALW Action Plan;
- m) Report to OSCE about the undertaken SALW measures and activities in accordance with the OSCE Document on SALW;
- n) Implement the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the OSCE Document on SALW; the OSCE document on the storage of conventional ammunition and any UN sanctions and EU restrictive measure concerning the export of SALW;
- o) Organize working meetings, the dynamics of which is determined by the President of the National SALW Commission;
- p) Submit an annual report to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on its work and the progress made in relation to the implemented operational measures defined in the National Strategy and the Action Plan.

The role and the tasks of the SALW Commission are described in more detail in the Rules of Proceedings for the work of the SALW Commission.

The composition of the National SALW Commission is determined by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia with a decision, upon a proposal by the relevant ministries and other institutions.

Relevant participants represented in the National SALW Commission are:

- Ministry of Interior (representatives from the relevant services working on this issue)
- Ministry of Defence,
- Ministry of Justice,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Ministry of Economy,
- Ministry of Education and Science,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy,
- Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration and
- Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Participants participating upon the invitation of the National SALW Commission:

- Ministry of Local Self-Government,

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,
- Agency for Youth and Sports,
- Agency for the Management of Seized Property.

The National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Agency if needed, that is, when it is estimated that a certain issue on the agenda of the National SALW Commission has common things with their work, might invite the following organisations to participate in its work:

- Representative of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and
- Other international organisations that directly implement the SALW intervention project.

The President of the National Commission is a senior official from the MOI. The work of the National Commission is supported by a secretary and Secretariat.

In order to perform its activities and responsibilities in the process of small arms and light weapons proliferation control on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, a national contact point is appointed within the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission.

SUPERVISION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION INDICATORS

All the ministries and institutions involved in the implementation of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy have the responsibility for its oversight and evaluation.

The Strategy supervision and assessment allows, at a high level, an effective strategy that would ensure current overview, analysis and understanding of the project (or programme) performance during its implementation.

This would set up a framework that ensures proper and correct reporting, a foundation for regular improvements and mechanisms for assessment of successes and challenges that the services are facing during the programme or project implementation, with the hope of learning through the issues they face.

For the purpose of successful monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan, measurable indicators are introduced in the Action Plan. They are based on the following:

1. baseline data that reflect the situation before the one impacted by the project and
2. stakeholders and the impacted community.

The National Commission regularly monitors the implementation of activities and supporting projects, so that it can determine whether they are underway, the level of implementation and the impacts and challenges.

Proper supervision would ensure that the following requirements are met:

- Reporting requirements (as per commitments in agreements);
- Quality requirement (level of good-quality project/activity implementation);

- Risk requirements (what are the challenges and risks);
- Requirements of applications, legislation and many other factors.

Below are the main reports of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission as tool for regular monitoring of the Action Plan implementation level:

1. Annual report of the NCSALW to the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia by the end of March of the current year, for the year before;
2. A report twice a year, in April and October, about the implementation of the Roadmap goals: report on the key performance indicators and a narrative report through the online reporting tool;
3. Reporting in accordance with UN, OSCE and EU documents, based on their requirements and tools;
4. Reporting on completed projects and their impact on stakeholders' operations;
5. Reporting on progress evaluation for projects with international organisations.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) 2022-2024

GOAL 1: BY 2023 TO ENSURE THAT THE LEGISLATION ON FIREARMS CONTROL IS ALIGNED WITH THE EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER RELATED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS					
SPECIFIC GOALS	ACTIVITY	LEAD MINISTRIES AND OTHER STATE BODIES AND PARTICIPANTS	PERIOD	FUNDING SOURCES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1.1 Develop laws and bylaws on firearms, ammunition and explosives for civil and military use and precursors (including legal possession, deactivation, storage, manufacturing, retail, trade, transit, import-export, training, marking, non-convertible firearms, retrieval, keeping records and supervision, explosives and precursors) and their harmonization with the UN, OSCE and EU standards ↓	1.1.1 Develop laws and bylaws on explosives for civil use	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC ²	1.1.1 The law and by-laws on explosives for civil use is adopted, training completed, functional software and number of categorized explosives
	• Training for inspectors to supervise this law	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC	
	• Technical assistance for categorization of explosives	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC	
	• Training for safety and security of stock	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC	
	• Develop a software on explosives for civil use and pyrotechnics	Ministry of Interior	2023		
	1.1.2 Develop laws and by-laws on weapons	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022	Budget/SEESAC	1.1.2 The law and by-laws on weapons are adopted, training completed, number of categorized weapons, functional marking machine
	• Training for the commission for deactivation of firearms	Ministry of Interior	2022	OSCE	
	• Technical assistance for categorization of previously registered firearms, in accordance with the new legislation	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC	
	1.1.3 Harmonise the Law on Weapons with the Law on Testing, Marking and Labelling Firearms and Ammunition	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy	2022	Budget/SEESAC	1.1.3 Legislation developed and harmonized
	1.1.4 Develop bylaws for the Law on Development, Manufacturing and Trade of Military Equipment	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Defence	2022	Budget	1.1.4 By-laws are approved

² Where in international organization is listed as a funding source, there are activities underway or activities and support are planned. If the square is left blank, it refers to future activities whose funding source cannot yet be identified.

↑	1.1.5 Conduct a desk review and develop a Law on Explosive Precursors	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy, MF- Customs Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Ministry of Health	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.1.5 The Evaluation Report is accepted and the recommendations are reviewed, training completed, and developed and functional software
	• Training for inspectors to supervise the implementation of this law	Ministry of Interior	2023	Budget/SEESAC	
	• Technical assistance for identification and handling of explosive precursors	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy, MF- Customs Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Ministry of Health	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	
	• Develop a software module for reporting suspicious transfers and a licensing process that enables the tracing of precursors	Ministry of Interior	2023		
	• Training for forensics laboratory for examining explosives precursors and labelling plastic explosives	Ministry of Interior	2023		
	1.1.6 Increase the implementation capacities through planning, training for human resources and technical equipment	All relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/ International organizations	1.1.6 Improved administrative capacities
1.2 Alignment of the legal framework of the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Procedure and firearms control with the UN Firearms Protocol and other relevant international documents	1.2.1 Amending the Criminal Code in accordance with the recommendations from the Assessment of Harmonization of CC with Firearms Protocol - UNFP, prepared by UNODC	Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/UNODC	1.2.1 Amendments to the Criminal Code are adopted
	1.2.2 Conduct a gap analysis of the Law on Criminal Procedure regarding electronic evidence as well as amend the Law on Criminal Procedure when necessary	Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget/UNODC	1.2.2 Gap analysis of the Law on Criminal Procedure completed and new Law on Criminal Procedure adopted
1.3 Ensure harmonization of firearms and explosives categorization and the relevant legal framework, which contributes to the direct operational cooperation	1.3.1 Participation in a regional workshop on harmonization and bilateral contacts with Western Balkans jurisdictions during the transition period for the legal framework on explosives for civil use	All relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/ International organizations	1.3.1 Number of representatives who have participated in regional workshops and harmonized/ compliant laws – panoramic overview

1.4 Ensure that an analysis is made on the implementation of relevant legislation and institutional practices to prevent firearms misuse in the context of domestic violence and violence by intimate partners	1.4.1 Implement the recommendations from the gender screening report	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.4.1 Number of implemented recommendations
	1.4.2 Ensure that an analysis is conducted on the implementation of national legislation and institutional practices on prevention of domestic violence and violence against partners	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.4.2 The analysis report has been approved
	1.4.3 Develop tools and conduct trainings on gender aspects related to risk assessment in firearm-related domestic violence	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.4.3 Number of developed tools
1.5 Ensure development tools and conduct training for relevant professionals on gender-sensitive licence approval and risk assessment of firearm-related domestic violence	1.5.1 Include gender-sensitive tools in the legislation on firearms	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.5.1 Number of gender-sensitive tools described in the legislation
	1.5.2 Participation in relevant trainings	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.5.2 Number of trainees
	1.5.3 Make a risk assessment for police officers (patrol officers, emergency centre and senior officers)	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	1.5.3 and 1.5.4 Completed trainings in this area and number of participants – risk assessment tool developed
	1.5.4 Risk assessment training for officials	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	

GOAL 2: BY 2024 TO ENSURE THAT FIREARM CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES ARE EVIDENCE-BASED AND INTELLIGENCE-LED					
SPECIFIC GOALS	ACTIVITY	LEAD MINISTRIES AND OTHER STATE BODIES AND PARTICIPANTS	PERIOD	FUNDING SOURCES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
2.1 Strengthen the role and capacities of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission	2.1.1 Establish procedures in the Rules of Procedure of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission and ensure balanced participation of women and men in the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission; make sure to establish a mechanism for engagement of civil society organisations working on gender equality and gender-based violence in the development of policies on small arms and light weapons control	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022	Budget/OSCE	2.1.1 Developed Rules of Procedure for the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission
	2.1.2 Conduct trainings on gender aspects of small arms and light weapons for the members of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission and all other institutions responsible for implementation of small arms and light weapons control policies (this should include gender-sensitive approval during licensing, as well as tools)	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.1.2 Gender training completed and number of trainees
	2.1.3 Conduct an analysis of the implementation of relevant legislation and institutional practices for prevention of firearm misuse in the context of domestic violence and active partner violence/ violence against intimate partners	Ministry of Interior – national focal points, Basic Public Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health	2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.1.3 Analysis of the implemented institutional practices
2.2 Operationalisation of national firearms focal points in line with European Union guidelines ↓	2.2.1 Re-connect necessary databases with Ibase: WRMS, CEMS, IMS etc.	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC	2.2.1 All mandatory databases are connected
	2.2.2 Monitoring and analysis of crime related to firearms, ammunition and explosives, with data segregated by gender and age	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget	2.2.2 SOPs on data collection are developed and include gender and age criteria
	2.2.3 Improve national analytical capacities and institutionalise the firearms data analysis	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	SEESAC	2.2.3 Number of trained and certified analysts

↑	2.2.4 Establish a system for data collection in all relevant institutions in relation to impacts of firearms and its distribution	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	SEESAC	2.2.4 Inter-sectoral data collection – sharing system established
	2.2.5 Conduct an impact study	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023		2.2.5 Report on the impact study
2.3 Strengthening capacities for working on intelligence-based policies related to illegal possession of firearms/IAT	2.3.1 Apply intelligence-led policing for firearm-related crime	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	2.3.1 Number of intelligence-led policing operations
	2.3.2 Introduce a mandatory framework for operational information	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	2.3.2 Number of received feedback
	2.3.3 Finalise the police information system (IMS), make it operational and connect it to the national firearms contact point	Ministry of Interior	2022	UNDP/SEESAC	2.3.3 The Police information system is functional and connected to the national firearms contact points
2.4 Ensure the exchange of operational and strategic information, data, intelligence products as well as evidence with Europol, Frontex, Eurojust and Interpol	2.4.1 Analyze the option to join the regionally agreed mandatory exchange of data for all users in the Western Balkans, that would allow for improvement of proactive investigations on national, regional and international level	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	2.4.1 Number of shared information
	2.4.2 Implement a regionally agreed procedure for sharing of ballistics data	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	2.4.2 Exchanged ballistics data
2.5 Strengthening the cooperation and participation in relevant regional and international training centres/Participating in regional and international conferences and seminars in the area of small arms and light weapons as well as explosives and precursors	2.5.1 Regularly contribute to regional processes and mechanisms as part of the Roadmap, SEEFEN, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission, the national firearms focal point, RACVIAC, EMPACT and others	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/Organisers	2.5.1 Number of participations in regional processes and mechanisms
	2.5.2 Participate in EMPACT Operational Action Plans (OAPs) on illicit firearm trafficking and participate in relevant operational actions	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/Organisers	2.5.2 Number of participations in joint action days
	2.5.3 Participate in specific trainings, such as SEESAC, CEPOL etc.	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/Organisers	2.5.3 Number of participations in various trainings

<p>2.6 Ensure that reporting requirements are met, in accordance with various agreements with regional and international organisations in the area of firearms control</p>	<p>2.6.1 Reporting through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to the UN, OSCE, ATT and other related international instruments</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economy, MF – Customs administration and other relevant institutions</p>	<p>2022/2023</p>	<p>Budget/SEESAC</p>	<p>2.6.1 Number and quality of reports</p>
	<p>2.6.2 Reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution for illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions</p>	<p>2022/2023</p>	<p>Budget/SEESAC</p>	<p>2.6.2 Number and quality of reports</p>
	<p>2.6.3 Reporting on firearms export</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economy, MF – Customs Administration and other relevant institutions</p>	<p>2022/2023</p>	<p>Budget/SEESAC</p>	<p>2.6.3 Number and quality of reports</p>
	<p>2.6.4 Reporting to UNODC on the UN Illicit arms flows questionnaire (UN-IAFQ)</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior, courts, Basic Public Prosecutor's office</p>	<p>Continuously every 2 years</p>	<p>Budget/UNODC</p>	<p>2.6.4 Number and quality of reports</p>
<p>2.7 Improving the capacities and capabilities for marking, retrieving and record keeping for small arms and light weapons, explosives and explosive precursors</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>2.7.1 Implementation of a new software for firearms registration and issuance for firearms licenses to legal entities and natural persons, as well as establishing a computerized system for registration of import, export and transit licenses and an online tracking system for the firearms on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, including firearms warehouses of legal entities (WRMS)</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>UNDP</p>	<p>2.7.1 WRMS at operational level</p>
	<p>2.7.2 Ensure tracking of lost and stolen firearms through INTERPOL's iARMS and develop SOP on tracking reports</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior</p>	<p>2022/2023</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<p>2.7.2 Number of weapons entered and tracked in IARms</p>
	<p>2.7.3 Develop a software for explosives control, including the possibility for tracing</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior</p>	<p>2022/2023</p>		<p>2.7.3 Explosives licensing and tracing introduced</p>
	<p>2.7.4 Develop a system for licensing explosive precursors and documenting suspicious transfers</p>	<p>Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions</p>	<p>2022/2023</p>		<p>2.7.4 Explosives precursors licensing and tracing introduced</p>

↑	2.7.5 Procure a machine for marking, marking at import and deactivation and conduct training	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023		2.7.5 The machine for marking is functional
	2.7.6 Attend training on serial number renewal	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC/NABIS	2.7.6 Number of trainees
2.8 Mainstreaming gender and age issues in SALW control policies and ensuring meaningful participation of women in SALW control	2.8.1 Ensure equal participation of women in small arms and light weapons control	Ministry of Interior and all relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.8.1 Number of women who participate in small arms and light weapons control
	2.8.2 Conduct an analysis of the implementation of relevant legislation and institutional practices to prevent misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence and violence by intimate partners	Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.8.2 Report on conducted analysis
	2.8.3 Develop tools and conduct trainings for relevant professionals for granting licenses for gender-sensitive situations and risk assessment for firearms-related domestic violence	Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.8.3 Developed tools
	2.8.4 Develop preventive measures to address gender and other factors that drive firearms demand and misuse, particularly targeted at young men	Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.8.4 Developed preventive measures and implemented actions
	2.8.5 Establish a mechanism for inclusion of relevant gender mechanisms and civil society organisations working on gender equality and gender-based violence in the development of SALW control policies	Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC	2.8.5 Mechanism put in use
2.9 Institutionalization of systematic collection of criminal and legal data from the police and the customs administration, the prosecutor's office, courts and penitentiary-correctional facilities	2.9.1 Establish a working group about data for firearms-related crimes, collected in accordance with the illicit arms flows questionnaire - IAFQ	Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice, MF – Customs Administration, State Statistical Office, courts	2022/2023	UNODC	2.9.1 Working group is formed
	2.9.2 Agree upon a common methodology for collecting data on firearms-related crime in order to improve the process of filling in the illicit arms flows questionnaire - IAFQ	Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice, MF – Customs Administration, State Statistical Office, courts	2022/2023	UNODC	2.9.2 Methodology approved
↓					

↑	2.9.3 Conduct a study to evaluate court practices in firearms-related crime	Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice, MF – Customs Administration, Supreme Court of RNM, State Statistical Office, courts	2022/2023	UNODC	2.9.3 Adopted report
2.10 Establishing a data collection system in all relevant institutions about the impacts of firearms and their distribution	2.10.1 Develop a database for the firearms focal point and identify relevant databases that could provide data	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC	2.10.1 Developed and approved databases
	2.10.2 Draft SOP on firearms-related crime data collection	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC	2.10.2 SOP developed and approved
2.11 Establish a mechanism for participation of relevant gender mechanisms (such as representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and civil society organisations working on gender equality and gender-based violence in the development of small arms and light weapons control policies)	2.11.1 Establish a working group to set up relevant gender mechanisms and institutional monitoring of gender equality issues, with the engagement of experts from competent institutions and relevant NGOs	National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons	2022	SEESAC	2.11.1 Working group is established and functional

GOAL 3: BY 2024 TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT FLOWS OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES (TOWARDS, WITHIN AND FROM THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA)					
SPECIFIC GOALS	ACTIVITY	LEAD MINISTRIES AND OTHER STATE BODIES AND PARTICIPANTS	PERIOD	FUNDING SOURCES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
3.1 Improving the capacities for detection, identification and testing with the goal of preventing and combating ammunition and explosives trafficking	3.1.1 Conduct a Border Police, MF – Customs Administration needs assessment and subsequent activities following the recommendations about SOPs, equipment, etc.	Ministry of Interior and MF – Customs Administration	2022	SEESAC	3.1.1 Assessment report is accepted and recommendations are reviewed
	3.1.2 Conduct a Criminal Police needs assessment and subsequent activities following the recommendations about SOPs, equipment, etc.	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC	3.1.2 Assessment report is accepted and recommendations are reviewed
	3.1.3 Develop procedures for documenting seized ammunition, hand grenades and explosives	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC	3.1.3 Approved SOP on documenting seized ammunition, hand grenades and explosives
	3.1.4 Conduct risk analysis, according to the methodology of CIRAM and WCO (World Custom Organization)	Ministry of Interior and MF – Customs Administration	2022/2023	Frontex	3.1.4 Number of risk assessment reports
	3.1.5 Further develop K9 capacities	Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence	2022/2023	OSCE	3.1.5 Number of trained and certified handlers and dogs. Level of technical capacity
	3.1.6 Conduct activities for detecting illegal trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and explosives through postal packages	Ministry of Interior, MF – Customs Administration, Postal Agency and other relevant institutions	2022/2023	UNODC	3.1.6 Analysis conducted and recommendations made, as well as needs assessment and actions upon recommendations
	3.1.7 Improve the capacities for online investigations, including Internet and Darknet analysis, use of crypto currencies and encrypted platforms such as Telegram	Ministry of Interior, MF – Customs Administration	2022/2023	SEESAC	3.1.7 Risk analysis conducted, needs assessed and recommendations reviewed
	3.1.8 Improve the capacities for using electronic evidence in cross-border investigations into firearms and organized crime	Basic public prosecutor's office, Prosecutor's office for organized crime and corruption, Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	UNODC	3.1.8 Number of trained investigators and prosecutors

3.2 Enhancing the capacities of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office for investigation, prosecution and trial of firearms-related crime	3.2.1 Develop Guidelines on conducting investigations and prosecuting firearms-related crime and integrating it in the curriculum of the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office and Prosecutor's office for organized crime and corruption, Ministry of Justice, Academy for Judges and Prosecutors	2022/2023	UNODC	3.2.1 Published Guidelines on conducting investigations and prosecuting fire-arms related crime
	3.2.2 Improve inter-institutional cooperation and coordination in implementation of procedures in the police, the customs administration and the public prosecutor's office	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office and Prosecutor's office for organized crime and corruption and MF – Customs Administration	2022/2023	UNODC	3.2.2 Progress report
	3.2.3 Enhance the capacities of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office for prosecuting and sentencing firearms-related cases	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office and Ministry of Justice	2022/2023	UNODC	3.2.3 Number of trainees
	3.2.4 Access of the national firearms focal point to the prosecutors	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office and Ministry of Justice	2022		3.2.4 Inform prosecutors about the work of the national firearms focal point on topics of interest
	3.2.5 Access of forensic experts to prosecutors	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office and Ministry of Justice	2022		3.2.5 Inform prosecutors about accredited methods used in the forensics lab
3.3 National control of import, export, trading, brokerage, transit, manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons and explosives ↓	3.3.1 Provide guidelines for legal entities in terms of internal control	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy	2022/2023	Budget	3.3.1 Guidelines on internal control are developed and disseminated
	3.3.2 Develop risk assessment guidelines in accordance with international agreements (Common position of EU, ATT and other relevant documents) and training for government officials	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	UNODC	3.3.2 Guidelines on risk assessment are developed and disseminated
	3.3.3 Harmonize the list of military equipment with the EU List	Ministry of Economy	2022/2023		3.3.3 The Law on Manufacturing and Sale of armaments and military equipment is annually aligned with the Common Military List of the EU

↑	3.3.4 Implement a programme for further support to certification during and after delivery, including aligning the end user certificate, engaging the Embassy employees and cooperation with other relevant embassies	Ministry of Economy	2022/2023	Budget	3.3.4 The methodology is developed and implemented
	3.3.5 Improve the transparency of firearms import and export	Ministry of Economy	2022/2023	Budget	3.3.5 Implementation of guidelines by technical experts
	3.3.6 Establish a control mechanism for licensing, trading and using explosive precursors	Ministry of Interior	2023		3.3.6 System for tracking explosives precursors is established
3.4 Strengthening operational cooperation and participation in EMPACT joint action days, operational action plans and joint investigation teams	3.4.1 Further expand the participation in joint action days as part of EMPACT, in addition to Joint action days Western Balkans	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office, MF – Customs Administration and Ministry of Justice	2022/2023	Budget	3.4.1 Number of participations in Empact OAP and results
	3.4.2 Conduct training on preparing agreements for joint investigation teams for the legal services, in accordance with EU JIT model agreement and JIT practical guide	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's office, MF – Customs Administration and Ministry of Justice	2022/2023	Budget/UNODC	3.4.2 Training conducted on preparing agreements for joint investigation teams
	3.4.3 Participate in joint investigation teams when necessary	Prosecutors, Ministry of Interior, MF- Customs Administration, Ministry of Justice	2022/2023	Budget/UNODC	3.4.3 Number of activities implemented by joint investigation teams

GOAL 4: BY 2024 TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE SUPPLY, DEMAND AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS THROUGH RAISING AWARENESS, OUTREACH AND REPRESENTATION AND TO REDUCE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ILLEGALLY OWNED FIREARMS					
SPECIFIC GOALS	ACTIVITY	LEAD MINISTRIES AND OTHER STATE BODIES AND PARTICIPANTS	PERIOD	FUNDING SOURCES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
4.1 Significantly increase the number of seized illegal firearms, ammunition and explosives	4.1.1 Implement ILP operations based on knowledge products prepared by the national firearms focal point and analysts	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.1.1 Number of ILP operations and number of knowledge products developed by the national firearms focal point
	4.1.2 Inform schools to hand over all materials left over from territorial defence training	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Science	2022	Budget	4.1.2 Number of handed over firearms
	4.1.3 Conduct online investigations into illicit firearms trafficking	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.1.3 Number of completed online investigations
	4.1.4 Establish joint operational teams between relevant criminal police departments	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.1.4 Number of established operational teams
4.2 Conduct activities for voluntary surrender and collection of firearms and their legalization	4.2.1 Provide a legal framework for voluntary surrender and legalization	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC	4.2.1 Voluntary surrender and legalization envisaged in the Law on Weapons
	4.2.2 Carry out campaigns for voluntary surrender and legalization, including awareness raising campaigns	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget/SEESAC/OSCE	4.2.2 Number of voluntarily surrendered pieces, as well as applications for legalization
4.3 Raising awareness on deactivation and deactivation as a means to legalize firearms in order to reduce the illicit possession of firearms	4.3.1 Implement a programme for permanent deactivation of temporarily deactivated firearms	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.3.1 Number of temporarily deactivated pieces of firearms that have been permanently deactivated
	4.3.2 Establish a legal framework for deactivation of firearms, including trophy weapons	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget	4.3.2 Deactivation of trophy weapons within the legal framework
	4.3.3 Conduct awareness campaigns on deactivation	Ministry of Interior	2022	OSCE/SEESAC	4.3.3 Number of implemented campaigns and number of deactivated firearms

4.4 Increase the administrative capacities and guided activities for full re-registration within the prescribed time, as well address appropriately discovered and inherited firearms	4.4.1 Analyze the old database and re-categorize unregistered firearms	Ministry of Interior	2022	Budget/SEESAC	4.4.1 Number of categorized pieces of firearms
	4.4.2 Carry out campaigns to inform relevant citizens about legal options and consequences	Ministry of Interior	2022	OSCE/SEESAC	4.4.2 Number of campaigns and number of registered firearms
	4.4.3 Operational activities targeted at citizens who will not register	Ministry of Interior, Basic Public Prosecutor's Office	2022	Budget	4.4.3 Number of activities and citizens who have responded
4.5 Raise citizens' awareness about the danger of using small arms and light weapons and pyrotechnics, with the goal of reducing the misuse of firearms and pyrotechnics in the community	4.5.1 Carry out awareness raising campaigns with precise timeframes and goals	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Local Self-Government	2022/2023	OSCE/SEESAC	4.5.1 Results of the awareness raising campaign
	4.5.2 Conduct preventive activities by the police	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	OSCE/SEESAC	4.5.2 Number of conducted preventive activities
	4.5.3 Develop a Practical guide on the national firearms legislation	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	UNODC	4.5.3 The Practical Guide is printed and distributed to all police stations
4.6 Raising awareness among licensed natural persons and legal entities about the dangers of misusing and illegal proliferation of firearms/Raising awareness about the risk of diversion by manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and explosives	4.6.1 Implement an internal programme on compliance	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy	2022/2023	Budget	4.6.1 Number of legal entities who have made contact
	4.6.2 Implement a programme on internal compliance	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy	2022/2023	Budget	4.6.2 Number of addressed legal entities
4.7 Develop sustainable partnerships in order to enhance lobbying and information distribution to reach message multipliers	4.7.1 Implement activities for cooperation with archery, hunting and training associations	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.7.1 Number of legal entities that have been contacted
	4.7.2 Outreach and potential cooperation with women and youth NGOs	Ministry of Interior, Agency for Youth and Sports	2022/2023	Budget	4.7.2 Number of NGOs that have been contacted
	4.7.3 Outreach and potential cooperation with media	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.7.3 Number of outreach activities and activities with media

4.8 Increase public trust in security institutions and enhancing communication and capacities to help public safety institutions	4.8.1 Examine the synchronization with policies of community policing	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.8.1 Report on implementation of community policing activities
	4.8.2 Enhance the cooperation with the police unit in charge of strategies, with the goal of reducing police intervention times and potential public survey about the trust in the police and level of satisfaction	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023	Budget	4.8.2 Results of the public survey
4.9 Address gender and other factors that drive demand and misuse of firearms, particularly targeting young men	4.9.1 Develop preventive measures to address gender and other factors that drive demand and misuse of firearms, particularly targeted at young men	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Science and relevant institutions	2022/2023	Budget	4.9.1 Developed preventive measures

GOAL 5: SYSTEMATICALLY REDUCE SURPLUS AND DESTROY SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION AND TRANSFER OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES					
SPECIFIC GOALS	ACTIVITY	LEAD MINISTRIES AND OTHER STATE BODIES AND PARTICIPANTS	PERIOD	FUNDING SOURCES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
5.1 Systematically and publically destroy discovered and confiscated firearms and ammunition	5.1.1 Regularly organize events to publicly destroy firearms and ammunition based on SOP for destruction and operational action plans (OAP) agreed between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the Protection and Rescue Directorate and the Agency for management of seized property, as well as the prosecutor's office	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Basic Public Prosecutor's office, courts, Agency for management of seized property, Protection and Rescue Directorate	2022/2023	Budget	5.1.1 Number of public destruction events
5.2 Improve stock management and reduce surplus of small arms and light weapons and ammunition by destroying them in an environmentally harmless manner, in accordance with IATG and/or other international standards	5.2.1 Calculate the surplus and identify potential locations	Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions	2022	Budget	5.2.1 Report on calculated surplus
	5.2.2 Conduct training for inspectors in the area of IATG and certify them in accordance with the OH Safer guard programme	Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions	2022/2023		5.2.2 The training for inspectors is implemented and number of trained inspectors
	5.2.3 Develop procedures on storage safety (programme for keeping, handling and storing firearms and ammunition for the forestry police)	Ministry of Interior, Department of forestry police	2022	SEESAC	5.2.3 The programme has been developed and approved
5.3 Strengthen inspection capacities and improve the management of small arms and light weapons lifecycle/Inspection by state institutions and legal entities	5.3.1 Further develop the Life Cycle Management project (LCM) for ammunition in the Ministry of Defence	Ministry of Defence	2022/2023	Budget	5.3.1 LCM project has been established
5.4 Provide safe and secure storage facilities for small arms and light weapons/firearms and ammunition	5.4.1 Conduct a study on safety and security and net explosive quantity (NEQ) in all ammunition storage facilities that belong to the Ministry of Interior and to legal entities and to determine explosive limit licences (ELL) and safety zones	Ministry of Interior	2022	SEESAC	5.4.1 Number of issued licences (ELL)
	5.4.2 Carry out training for inspectors in the area of IATG and certify them in accordance with the UN Safer guard programme	Ministry of Interior	2022/2023		5.4.2 Inspectors are trained and certified

