



NATIONAL SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) CONTROL STRATEGY  
AND ACTION PLAN  
2017 - 2021 (REVISED VERSION)

November, 2018

## CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
1.1 GENERAL PART .....	3
1.2. DEFINITION.....	7
2. ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION WITH SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA .....	9
2.1 Customs Administration data.....	10
2.2 Ministry of Interior data.....	10
3. GOAL OF THE NATIONAL SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS CONTROL STRATEGY .....	14
3.1. IMPOSING CONTROL OVER THE SALE AND THE MANUFACTURING OF LEGAL FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.....	15
3.2 COMBATING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING AND PREVENTING ARMED INCIDENTS, PROLIFERATION, DIVERSIONS AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION .....	15
3.3 COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.....	17
3.4 STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES FOR FIGHTING ARMS TRAFFICKING .....	17
3.5 WORKING ON REDUCING THE OFFER, DEMAND AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS BY AWARENESS RAISING, EDUCATION, INFORMING AND LOBBYING .....	17
4. NATIONAL SALW COMMISSION .....	17
4.1. The role of the National SALW Commission .....	18
4.2. Tasks of the National SALW Commission: .....	18
4.3. The composition of the National SALW Commission .....	19
5. SUPERVISION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION INDICATORS.....	20

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 GENERAL PART

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is committed to preventing, controlling and eradicating the proliferation of illegal weapons in accordance with regional and international initiatives, standards and documents for control of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials. For the purpose of having consistency in these efforts of the Government, the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons has been working on implementing its primary mission, which is coordination of the activities of all involved parties (state and non-governmental agencies and organizations), as well as the multitude of interrelated stakeholders that determine the type of intervention for the control of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with the regional and international initiatives, standards and documents for control of weapons, ammunition and explosive materials.

The Republic of Macedonia participates in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union and NATO activities as part of its political commitment to share the goals and the priorities of this important common policy of the European Union and NATO member states even before becoming their full fledged member. The Republic of Macedonia, sharing identical foreign policy values with the European Union and NATO, in this way wants to contribute to the promotion of global peace and stability, as well as building peace and post-conflict stabilization by participating in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and NATO activities.

As a UN member, Macedonia has been 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 that sense, the Republic of Macedonia has fully incorporated the following international documents in its national legislation:

- United Nations Programme of Action (2001)<sup>1</sup> and
- OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (adopted in 2000 and re-issued in 2012),

---

<sup>1</sup> *United Nations Document A/CONF.192/15, New York, July 2001.*

- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition ratified by the Republic of Macedonia on 10 July 2007, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, ratified on 12.01.2005,
- International Tracing Instrument (ITI),
- Arms Trade Treaty ratified on 23 January 2014.<sup>2</sup>

At the same time, as a member of OSCE, the Republic of 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.

On 5 July 2010, the Government of the Republic of 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.

In addition, the Republic of Macedonia has been implementing the Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and the amendments to the Directive 2008/51/EC of 21 May 2008 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, and within the framework of the activities foreseen in the 2017-2021 Action Plan, it is also envisaged to comply with the Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

The 2018 amendments to the Law on Weapons completely encompass the provisions of the Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 2015/2403 of 15 December 2015 establishing common guidelines for deactivation standards and techniques to ensure that firearms are rendered permanently inoperable, and further harmonization will follow of the legislation with the 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.

In the meantime, the European Union adopted the 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

---

<sup>2</sup> Law ratifying the Arms Trade Agreement. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.13 from 23.01.2014

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 Macedonia also signed the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development in 2009, adopted on 7 July 2006, and special emphasis is placed 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.

The Republic of Macedonia follows and respects the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Women, Peace and Security and Resolution 1612 (2005) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 26 July 2005.

In addition, for the purpose of harmonization with the European regulations, in 2017, upon the proposal by the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons, a working group was formed to work on a new draft Law using the previous two laws, Law on Trade in Explosives and the Law on Protection from Explosives, that would be harmonised 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 uses; - 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 uses; - Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles (recast); - Directive 2014/28/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation 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 explosives precursors.

Under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Union and the Regional Cooperation Council, SEESAC organized a regional high-level Meeting of the Deputy Ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs from Tirana, Sarajevo, Pristina, 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 of 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-Eastern 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 it 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 the 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.

## **1.2. DEFINITION**

There is no established international definition about Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) both in the domestic and international literature. The extensive use and

misuse of firearms, and especially of 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); 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 (calibre 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 calibre 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 Southeast 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."

As an explanation, one could point out that *small arms* encompass hand guns of small calibre 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-calibre 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 aforementioned, 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.

a) "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;

b) "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 calibre smaller than 100 mm.

As for 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.

## **2. ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION WITH SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

The Republic of Macedonia adopted the 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.

During the implementation of the goals and tasks defined in the previous Strategy, the institutions of the Republic of Macedonia in charge of control of small arms and light weapons undertook appropriate actions and the outcomes are evident in the following statistics:

## 2.1 Customs Administration data

Illegal weapons discovered at border crossings

Type / year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Weapons (firearms, hunting guns and gas guns)	4	3	2	14+20 hand grenades	4	8	10
Ammunition	180	219	380	7132	596	45	711
Firecrackers	/	1414	1812	/	268	126	40

Crimes and misdemeanours according to the Law on Customs out of which only one offence was committed by a woman in 2010.

Type / year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Crimes	1	4	5	3	1	4	3
Misdemeanours	2	/	/	3	3	5	4

## 2.2 Ministry of Interior data

Arms trafficking related crimes and perpetrators between 2012 and 2017

Crimes and perpetrators according to sex	Illegal arms and explosive devices manufacturing, possession and trafficking																	
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017							
	offences	perpetrators	offences	perpetrators	offences	perpetrators	offences	perpetrators	offences	perpetrators	offences	perpetrators						
	178	men 208	women 7	205	men 224	women 11	224	men 227	women 7	196	men 211	women 5	171	men 174	women 8	130	men 130	women 10

Offences, perpetrators and seized weapons between 2012 and 2017

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
------	------	------	------	------	------

Requests	Perpetrators	Seized weapons	Requests	Perpetrators	Seized weapons	Requests	Perpetrators	Seized weapons	Requests	Perpetrators	Seized weapons	Requests	Perpetrators	Seized weapons	Requests	Perpetrators	Seized weapons
429	455	229	414	428	229	265	274	150	167	172	91	207	218	92	192	192	48

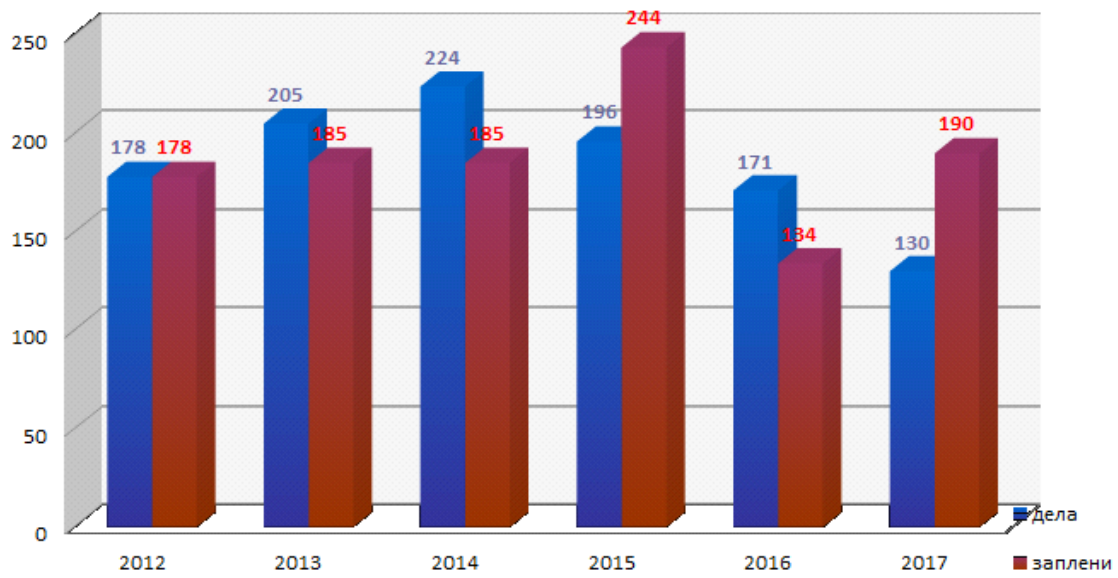
### Seized weapons, ammunition and explosives between 2012 and 2017

Seized weapons, ammunition and explosives	Types of weapons and ammunition (pcs)																	
	2012						2013						2014					
	Pistols & revolvers	Various rifles	Other types of weapons	Total pcs of weapons	Ammo	Explosives in kg	Pistols & revolvers	Various rifles	Other types of weapons	Total pcs of weapons	Ammo	Explosives in kg	Pistols & revolvers	Various rifles	Other types of weapons	Total pcs of weapons	Ammo	Explosives in kg
	88	63	27	178	8.682	54	103	57	25	185	10.769	19 pcs	106	60	19	185	9.919	3 kg & 80 g

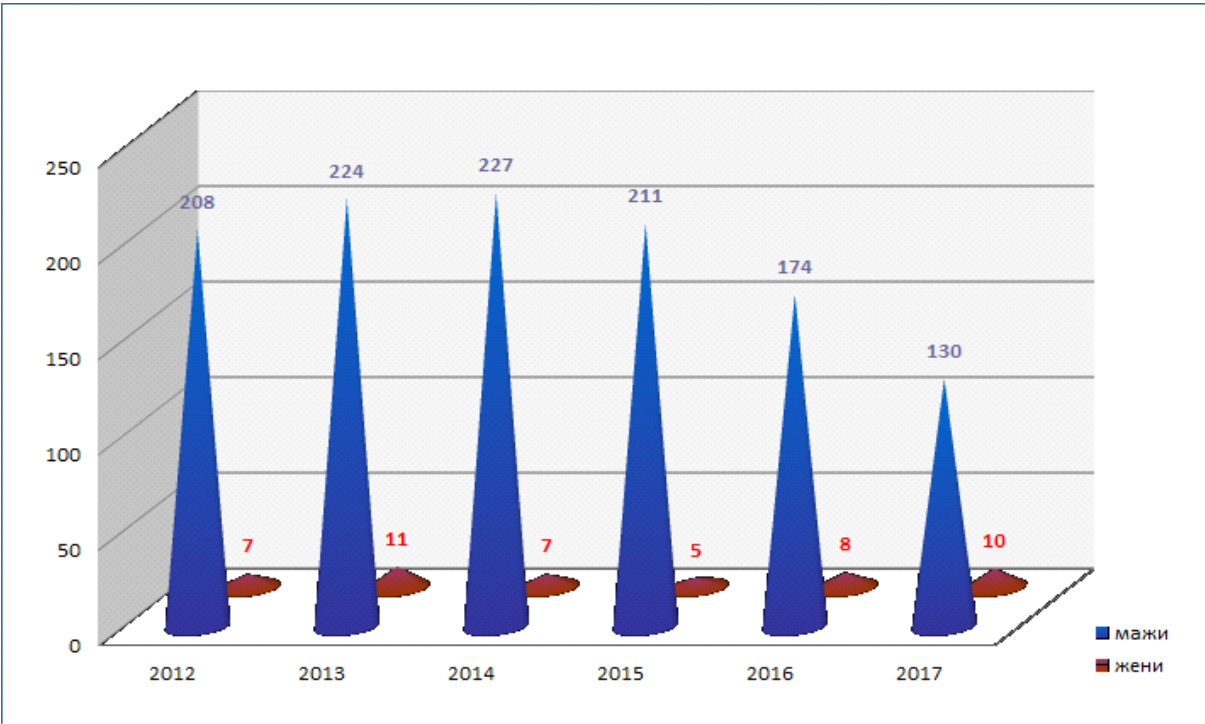
Seized weapons, ammunition and explosives	Types of weapons and ammunition (pcs)																	
	2015						2016						2017					
	Pistols & revolvers	Various rifles	Other types of weapons	Total pcs of weapons	Ammo	Explosives in kg	Pistols & revolvers	Various rifles	Other types of weapons	Total pcs of weapons	Ammo	Explosives in kg	Pistols & revolvers	Various rifles	Other types of weapons	Total pcs of weapons	Ammo	Explosives in kg
	106	125	13	244	22.792	0.8	59	59	17	134	4.995	0.654	100	53	37	190	9.718	

### ***Crimes and firearms and ammunition seized by the Border Police at the border crossings***

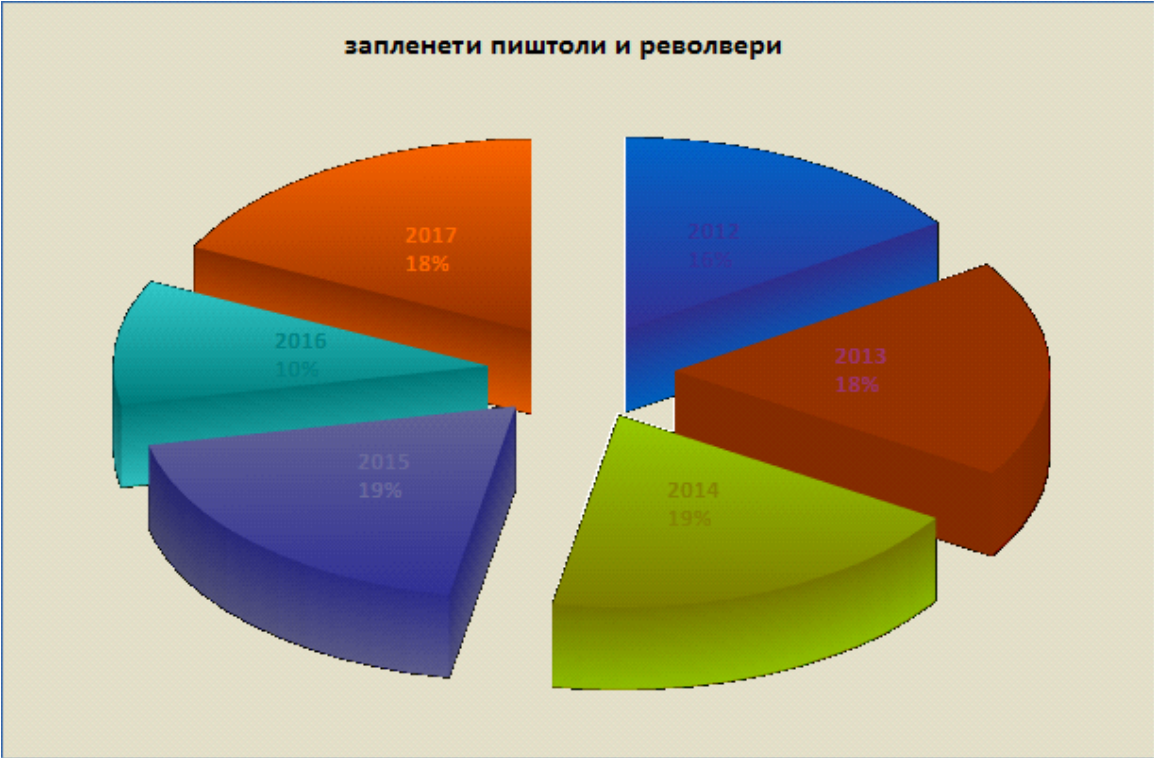
Type / year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of crimes	1	5	8	11	15	8
No. of pieces of firearms and ammunition – seized at the border crossings	7 cartridges	5 pieces and 28 cartridges	3 pieces, 1 gas pistol and 174 cartridges	0	58 cartridges	8 cartridges



**Chart 1: Number of offences and seizures per year**



**Chart no. 2: Perpetrators of crimes according to sex**



**Share of seized pistols and revolvers in the total number of seized firearms**

The analysis of crimes in the Republic of Macedonia does not stop with the statistics provided by the aforementioned ministries and state authorities, but it is necessary to actively involve the competent public prosecutor's offices and the competent courts. Namely, the competent public prosecutor's offices provide data on the processed crimes, while the competent courts on the outcomes of the court proceedings i.e. the type and the length of the imposed sanctions and in general the penal policy of the court.

This data is relevant for the purpose of evaluating the efficiency of the competent state authorities in sanctioning this type of crimes, as well as for public awareness raising about the seriousness of this type of crimes and the rigorous sanctions that are provisioned for the perpetrators of such crimes.

### **3. 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 Macedonia aimed at control, prevention and eradication of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their components and ammunition. It is a guidebook for improving the current 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.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

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 Macedonia.

#### **STRATEGIC GOALS**

### **3.1. IMPOSING CONTROL OVER THE SALE AND THE MANUFACTURING OF LEGAL FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

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

3.1.2 Harmonization of firearms categorization and the relevant legal framework, which contributes to the direct operational cooperation;

3.1.3 National control of trade and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and explosives for civilian use;

3.1.4 National control of the import, export and transit of small arms and light weapons, as well as control of the brokerage in the trade with firearms, explosives for civilian use and precursors;

3.1.5 Improving the capacities and capabilities for marking, retrieving and record keeping of SALW;

3.1.6 Full integration of gender and age issues into SALW control policies and ensuring significant participation of women in SALW control;

3.1.7 Introduction of a new software for firearms registration and issuance of 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 Macedonia including the firearms warehouses of legal entities;

3.1.8 Informing about the activities of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission / Strengthening its role.

### **3.2 COMBATING ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING AND PREVENTING ARMED INCIDENTS, PROLIFERATION, DIVERSIONS AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION**

3.2.1 Monitoring and analysis of firearms, ammunition and explosives related crimes, with data segregated by gender and age;

3.2.2 Advancing the national analytical capacities and institutionalizing the firearms data analysis;

- 3.2.3 Institutionalizing the systematic collection of criminal justice data by the police and customs administration, prosecutor's office, courts and penitentiary-correctional institutions) / Establishing a system for collecting data in all relevant institutions regarding the firearms impact distribution;
- 3.2.4 Ensuring exchange of operational and strategic information, data, intelligence, as well as evidence with Europol, Frontex, Eurojust and Interpol;
- 3.2.5 Increasing the capacity of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office to investigate, prosecute and try firearms related crimes;
- 3.2.6 Reducing and discontinuing the arms transfer and trafficking, including internet firearms related crimes - dark web / Increasing the capacities for detection, identification and research in order to prevent trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives;
- 3.2.7 Significant increase in the number of seized pieces of firearms, ammunition and explosives / Enhanced capacities for police work based on intelligence information regarding the illegal possession of firearms / SALW;
- 3.2.8 Destruction of recovered, seized and confiscated weapons, ammunition and explosives / Systematic and public destruction of all confiscated firearms, ammunition and explosives;
- 3.2.9 Improving the manner of stock management, reducing surpluses and destroying them in an environmentally harmless manner, in accordance with IATG and / or other international standards;
- 3.2.10 Establishing a national focal point for the exchange of operational information about firearms in accordance with the European Union Action Plan;
- 3.2.11 Conducting actions for voluntary surrender and collection of firearms and their legalization;
- 3.2.12 Awareness raising about deactivation as a means for legalizing firearms in order to reduce the illicit possession of firearms;
- 3.2.13 Increasing the administrative capacities and guided activities for full re-registration within the prescribed time, as well as addressing the appropriately discovered and inherited firearms;
- 3.2.14 Coordinated data collection activities in case of domestic violence related to the use or threat to use firearms.



### **3.3 COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

3.3.1 Cooperation with relevant national, regional and international organizations / Strengthening bilateral, regional and international mechanisms;

3.3.2 Reporting to national, regional and international organizations;

3.3.3 Implementing and amending bilateral and international agreements;

### **3.4 STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES FOR FIGHTING ARMS TRAFFICKING**

3.4.1 Participation in relevant regional and international trainings;

3.4.2 Participation in regional and international conferences and seminars on topics related to small arms and light weapons;

3.4.3 Professional training about small arms and light weapons;

3.4.4 Analysis of the needs for procurement of adequate technical equipment for efficient fight against illicit arms trafficking.

### **3.5 WORKING ON REDUCING THE OFFER, DEMAND AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS BY AWARENESS RAISING, EDUCATION, INFORMING AND LOBBYING**

3.5.1 Raising the awareness of the citizens about the dangers of using small arms and light weapons in order to reduce the presence of firearms in the community and to contribute towards changing the "gun culture";

3.5.2 Awareness raising among licensed natural and legal persons about the danger of misuse and illegal proliferation of firearms / Awareness raising about the risk of diversion by manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and explosives;

3.5.3 Developing sustainable partnerships to enhance lobbying and information dissemination in order to reach the multipliers of messages;

3.5.4 Increasing public trust in security institutions and increasing communication and capacity to help the public security institutions.

## **4. NATIONAL SALW COMMISSION**

#### **4.1. The 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.*

#### **4.2. Tasks of the National SALW Commission:**

- a) Identifying and determining the impact of SALW on society, security and economic-social development of the country;
- b) Defining the priorities in SALW control intervention and NAP implementation;
- c) Determining and developing operational intervention measures for SALW control that result from the goal;
- d) Developing and expanding the "National SALW Action Plan";
- e) Providing sufficient resources and mobilizing them when necessary to implement the National SALW Action Plan;
- f) Approving detailed SALW proposals, intervention by all relevant stakeholders<sup>3</sup>, including legislative issues to support the National SALW Action Plan;
- g) Coordinating the activities of all relevant stakeholders to support the National SALW Action Plan;
- h) Providing timely information to all relevant stakeholders to support the National Action Plan;
- i) Monitoring of all components of the SALW measures and activities to support the National SALW Action Plan;
- j) Assessment of all components of the SALW measures and activities in support of the National SALW Action Plan;
- k) Updating the National SALW Action Plan in accordance with the changing conditions;
- l) Reporting to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs about the undertaken SALW measures and activities in accordance with the UN SALW Action Plan<sup>4</sup>;
- m) Reporting to OSCE about the undertaken SALW measures and activities in accordance with the OSCE Document on SALW<sup>5</sup>;

---

<sup>3</sup> *The participants could encompass among others the line ministries, the United Nations agencies (UN DDA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM), NATO (NAMSA), OSCE Mission, EU Mission, NGOs and civil society organisations.*

<sup>4</sup> *UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, July 2001.*

<sup>5</sup> *OSCE Document on SALW, 24 November 2000.*

- n) Implementing 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) Organising working meetings, the dynamics of which is determined by the President of the National SALW Commission.
- p) Submitting 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.

#### **4.3. The composition of the National SALW Commission**

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

##### Relevant participants represented in the National SALW Commission are:

- a) Ministry of Interior; (representatives from the relevant services working on this issue)
- b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- c) Ministry of Defence;
- d) Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia;
- e) Ministry of Justice;
- f) Ministry of Education and Science;
- g) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- h) Ministry of Economy;
- i) Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;

##### Participants participating upon the invitation by the National SALW Commission:

- j) Ministry of Local Self-Government;
- k) Ministry of Health;
- l) Basic Public Prosecutor's Office;
- m) Youth and Sport Agency; and
- n) Agency for Management of Seized Property.

The National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission if needed, that is, when it is estimated that a certain issue on the agenda of the National SALW Commission that should be discussed requires additional expertise, the following organisations are invited to participate in its work:

- Representative from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and
- Other international organisations that directly implement the SALW intervention project.

The President of the National Commission is senior official from the Ministry of Interior (the State Secretary or the Director of the Public Security Bureau).

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 Macedonia, a national contact point is appointed within the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission.

## **5. 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 are responsible for its oversight and evaluation.

The National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission will prepare annually a report on the level of implementation of the Action Plan and the envisaged strategic goals, which will be an integral part of the Annual Report on the work of the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Commission.

If necessary, the National Commission may propose additional measures and activities in order to effectively carry out and implement the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy and Action Plan.

**2017-2021 NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (SALW)**