

Podgorica - 14th Roadmap Local Coordination Meeting on SALW

11 June 2026

Opening remarks

The Acting Director of the Police Administration recalled that Montenegro had systematically developed its legislative and institutional framework through the 2019-2025 Strategy, with significant results in legislation, capacities, cooperation and coordination, and had completed an overall evaluation of the Strategy in the previous year that also identified new challenges requiring adaptation. He confirmed Montenegro's continued commitment to the Roadmap and reported that the new SALW Control Strategy 2026-2030 and its Action Plan 2026-2028 are in their final stage, oriented towards data and intelligence-based policy, interoperability and a strong focus on prevention.

The German Embassy framed the work within Montenegro's 2026 presidency of the Berlin Process and its EU accession agenda, commending the alignment of the Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol and the progress achieved on the firearms, explosives and foreign-trade legislation. It also cautioned that, although all projects under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) are proceeding to December 2026, tighter global funding will make further resource mobilisation more difficult, and that discussion on sustaining the next phase should begin without delay. The European Union Delegation, unable to attend in person, conveyed brief remarks welcoming the results achieved and the new legislative approach, observing that firearms control is among the areas posing fewer difficulties under Chapter 24, and commending the work of SEESAC and the commitment of the authorities.

Legal framework and harmonisation

The principal development reported was the advance of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition. Following a positive opinion from the European Commission in April 2026, the draft was adopted by the Government on 30 April 2026 and is now before Parliament, with adoption expected in the period ahead. The Law on Explosives for Civil Use is under review of the European Commission and will follow the same route once a positive opinion is received, while the draft Law on Explosive Precursors continues to await input from the competent ministries. Work also continues on aligning the control lists for arms, military equipment and dual-use items with the relevant EU lists, with part of this expected in the second half of 2026. Separately, the authorities reported that the Wassenaar Arrangement special rapporteur's visit concluded positively, recommending membership to the Agreement, which Montenegro expects to formalise in the near future. The outstanding amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, in particular on surveillance and special investigative measures, were raised as a constraint on prosecutions and reported to be at a final stage.

New SALW Control Strategy 2026-2030

The evaluation of the 2019-2025 Strategy and Action Plan, conducted with SEESAC support, was completed and concluded a high overall rate of implementation, with 66 activities fully completed, 19 partially completed and one outstanding. The strongest results were recorded in inter-institutional cooperation and in alignment with EU and regional standards, while the goal on reducing illegal possession lagged, linked to delays in the legislative framework and to limited private-sector engagement. The new Strategy 2026-2030 and its Action Plan 2026-2028 are finalised in early June 2026 and posted for public consultation. Following integration of comments, the authorities expect Government adoption by the end of June 2026 and implementation in the second half of the year. The strategy is built around five operational goals encompassing approximately 100 activities, with emphasis on data and intelligence-based policing, prevention, digitalisation and interoperability, and will be presented in detail at the next meeting.

Data, coordination and the justice response

The Firearms Focal Point (FFP) was reported as fully operational, having issued its first Annual Firearms Bulletin for 2025 and now able to compare data year on year; an upgrade of its database, including its gender-disaggregated data, is under way for presentation at the next meeting. A recurring challenge raised across several interventions was the absence of an integrated, automatic

exchange of data among the police, prosecution service and courts, which still rely on formal communication channels; establishing an interoperable system, with the resources to sustain it, was identified as a priority. On the justice response, the prosecution reported that earlier inconsistencies in interpretation had largely been resolved, while expressing concern that appeals against lenient sentences are almost always rejected by the courts. The Supreme Court noted a shift towards stricter sentencing, recording 64 custodial and 61 suspended sentences in 2025 against 27 and 49 respectively in 2024, and intends to produce an updated analysis as a measure under the new strategy.

Border control and operational cooperation

The Border Police reported intensified activity, including the EMPACT Joint Action Days conducted in March 2026 with the Customs Administration, the criminal police and FRONTEX, and a round of international border-control days in May 2026. Detection of weapons and ammunition by the border force rose to 28 recorded incidents in 2025, against 16 in 2024, attributed to intensified work and to improved technical equipment provided since 2023, and the force confirmed its expanded role in cross-border investigations. UNODC reported continued postal-detection work, including an electronic scanning device donated to the Customs Administration and related operator training, and announced a sub-regional meeting on the detection of firearms and dangerous goods in postal shipments, with participants from Ukraine, for late June 2026.

Forensic capacities

With UNDP support, the Forensic Centre reported significant improvements. A gunshot-residue scanning microscope was procured, validated and is being prepared for accreditation, and the ballistics laboratory secured accreditation of one method, the examination of firearm marks on cartridge cases. The shooting range was largely reconstructed, including a new ventilation system, with side-wall works and a new comparative microscope still outstanding. Persistent staffing shortages were highlighted, in particular the limited number of ballistic experts, and the Centre hopes to secure a third ballistics officer. The Crime Scene Investigation unit remains unaccredited owing to spatial, technical and human-resource constraints, although a mandatory course for 14 technicians was delivered and specialised vehicles are still expected. The forthcoming analysis of explosive precursors was flagged as a challenge that will require a clear legal basis, equipment and validation.

Awareness raising, collection and destruction

Awareness-raising continued through the campaigns "Respect Life, Return Weapons" and "Stop using firecrackers", activities during the 16 Days of Activism including video materials on violence against women, and a new mobile application, Police CG, enabling citizens to report incidents. The supportive role of the media was noted and reinforced by joint workshops organised by SEESAC, and the SALW Commission observed that it lacks a dedicated media representative. On deactivation, cooperation between the FFP and the Ministry of Interior continued, an assessment of a deactivation company in Nikšić found it largely aligned with the EU directive, and six officers were selected for specialised training in France. No destruction of confiscated, collected or surplus weapons took place during the period; the Ministry of Interior reported roughly 7,000 voluntarily surrendered firearms held in storage, for which the analysis and destruction procedure is planned for the end of 2026 or 2027.

Stockpile security

The Ministry of Defence reported no ammunition surpluses and the continuation of the OSCE-supported project to reduce security risks at storage sites, including the delivery of fire-extinguishing equipment and related training. An instruction on storage management is expected by the end of June 2026, while upgrading the main storage facility and disposing of approximately 13 tonnes of unexploded ordnance remain dependent on further funding. The OSCE Mission outlined additional support on ammunition life-cycle management and a programme of K9 training, including a regional exercise near Ohrid in late June and a further module in July, and confirmed the handover of four vehicles to the police and border police.

Key findings from the 15th Progress Reports

Following the interventions by the relevant institutions, UNDP SEESAC presented the key findings of the data reported through the 15th Roadmap Progress Reports, covering both the Narrative Progress Report and the Key Performance Indicators Report.

Plans and activities of international organisations

UNDP described itself as increasingly involved in crime-scene investigation work, and it noted that the second-half-2026 package is at the contract-signing (procurement) stage, with the laboratory reconstruction covering around seven rooms. Folding those in, the entry could read: UNDP confirmed continued support to the Forensic Centre in the second half of 2026, where it is increasingly involved in crime-scene work. The package, now at the contract-signing stage, includes training, the reconstruction of around seven laboratory rooms, mobile laboratories, and drones for regional centres with accompanying training on their use. Further support is envisaged in 2027, subject to funding. UNDP continued support to the Forensic Centre in the second half of 2026, including laboratory reconstruction, mobile laboratories and drones with accompanying training, and envisaged further support in 2027 subject to funding.

UNODC reported on its two regional projects in the Western Balkans, both active in Montenegro. It recalled its support to the alignment of Montenegro's Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol, noting that, following public consultation on amendments prompted by recent incidents, comments had been collected and a report would be published, although no changes to the firearms provisions were ultimately made. On capacity-building, it had delivered a fourth round of training for judges and prosecutors at the Police Academy in Danilovgrad, supported by training materials and by ballistics input on converted firearms provided with the Forensic Centre, and had hosted a meeting in Vienna in the second half of 2025 on the analysis of firearms-related offences, at which Montenegrin experts shared experience on seizures. Under Project Hermes, it had donated an electronic scanning device to the Customs Administration and trained operators on its use, the scanner having been in service for around three weeks, complemented by X-ray image-analysis training drawing on a UNODC repository of more than 5,000 reference images and one-year licences on an online training platform for customs and postal staff. A sub-regional meeting is planned for late June 2026, with guests from Ukraine, allowing Western Balkans police to exchange experience on detecting firearms, ammunition and other dangerous goods in postal shipments. In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the Criminal Procedure Code has not yet been amended on surveillance and special investigative measures, which limits the tools available to investigators and contributes to the low number of criminal cases.

The **OSCE Mission** reported that its first project with the Ministry of Defence will conclude later in 2026, having this year delivered training in Sweden for women from the Ministry on systematic fire protection. Fire-protection equipment for storage sites continued to be provided, with the last item delivered some two months before the meeting. An instruction on the storage and handling of ammunition is being drafted for completion by the end of June 2026, and the Mission is supporting Montenegro's presence at a side event in Vienna, with extrabudgetary funding, to present its results. During the week of the meeting, training on the visual inspection of ammunition was being delivered with an Austrian Ministry of Defence team, with a further training to follow. Under the FRONTEX regional framework, the K9 programme had completed its fourth training module, involving the special and border police, with a fifth module due in July and a large regional exercise in late June in the mountains near Ohrid, North Macedonia, engaging five officers from the special and border police; a FRONTEX letter of excellence was received for the officers' explosives-detection skills, with Slovak and Polish partners involved. Work towards a deactivation facility continued, with the legal framework analysed and a civil engineer preparing the main design ahead of a construction tender funded from the national budget. OSCE also confirmed the donation of four vehicles, two each for the special and border police, for handover with the Ministry of Interior the following week, and noted the scope to invite Firearms Focal Point members to K9 sessions to support field data collection. On funding, it cautioned that prospects for support beyond 2028 are limited owing to budget savings, though some activity may still prove feasible.

UNDP SEESAC presented an overview of its current activities and plans for further work in this area in Montenegro. The presentation covered support to the harmonization of the firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) legislative framework, new SALW Control Strategy development, evidence-based SALW control policies, Gender and SALW, as well as support provided to the criminal police, border police and customs authorities. Furthermore, support to the FFP and the CSI Unit was highlighted, together with plans for further support in these areas. Finally, support to physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) and awareness-raising activities was also highlighted.

Donor interventions

An overview was provided of the **Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)** supporting the implementation of the SALW Control Roadmap in the Western Balkans. It was noted that the Trust Fund received new contributions from the Netherlands and France in 2025, bringing total contributions since its establishment to USD 30.4 million. The recent decision of the MPTF Steering Committee to allocate an additional USD 1 million for immediate priorities across the region in 2026 was also highlighted. Looking ahead, the Trust Fund is awaiting proposals for new activities from implementing organizations, to be developed in close coordination with and endorsed by the relevant SALW Commissions. In this context, in-kind and direct financial contributions from national authorities were encouraged as an important element in informing and guiding future support and priorities.