



14th Regional Progress Report – Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap

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Roadmap Implementation Phase II 2025-2030

Funding Support ● **Coordination and monitoring platform** established & supported through **EU Council Decisions**.

Coordination Meetings ● **14 rounds of local coordination meetings** and **14 regional coordination meetings** organized.

Progress Reports ● **14 narrative progress reports** and **11 Key Performance Indicators reports**.

SALW Control ● A **Multi Partner Trust Fund** is established and operational.

MPTF
High Level
Meetings ● **Four high-level meetings**

Mid Term and Final Review ● Mid-Term Review completed in 2022. **Final Review** completed in December 2025.

Support to Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap (2018 - October 2025)



6
Jurisdictions

20
Implementing
partners

9
Donors

28
Fully funded
projects

9
Partially funded
projects

43
Completed
projects

over \approx 91.5 mil. EUR

**In direct support of the Roadmap
implementation**

Key Findings

Narrative Progress Reports

1

Goal

By 2030, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region (KPI 1).

2

Goal

By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led (KPIs 2 and 3)

3

Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition, and explosives (KPIs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8)

4

Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention (KPIs 9, 10, and 13)

5

Goal

By 2030, substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives (KPIs 11 and 12)



1 Goal

By 2030, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, and standardized across the region (KPI 1).

Reported progress

- All jurisdictions reported ongoing efforts in **drafting** legislative amendments on **weapons, ammunition, and explosives**, aimed at closer alignment with the EU Acquis.
- Progress has been reported toward drafting a template legislation for **explosive precursors** in by Podgorica.
- **Three jurisdictions report** their Criminal Code to be harmonised with the UN Firearms Protocol. Amendments to the Criminal Code still in process in Belgrade, Tirana and Sarajevo.

Reported progress

- **SALW Commissions** – coordinating and monitoring SALW Control-related activities in line with SALW Strategies and the Roadmap.
- **SALW Control strategies under implementation in Podgorica, Pristina, and Sarajevo.** Drafting of new strategies/programmes near finalisation in **Belgrade, Skopje, and Tirana.**
- **Data collection** is reported as standardised but not institutionalized by most jurisdictions.
- All jurisdictions report conducting **tracing** for every weapons seized domestically and internationally, with most of them reporting direct access to iARMS.

2 Goal

By 2030, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are in place, evidence-based and intelligence-led (KPIs 2 and 3)

Graph 2 - Number of seized hand grenades by WB jurisdictions in the year 2017-2021, based on the answers to the question

Jurisdiction/Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOT
Albania	53	75	66	131	124	469
Bosnia and Herzegovina	225	330	749	235	326	1275
Kosovo	35	31	48	38	38	190
Montenegro	17	12	8	5	23	65
North Macedonia	44	21	10	8	9	92
Serbia	85	127	94	102	140	548



The data in the table and graph above indicates that most seizures happened in places with the highest production of arms during the armed conflict in the 1990s. Bosnia and Herzegovina had the highest number of seizures in the period covered by the questionnaire, followed by Serbia and Albania.

The table and graph below show that the highest number of seizures are reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by Serbia, Kosovo, Sweden, and Belgium. This is due to the fact that these countries have a long history of arms control and have a well-developed legal framework for the seizure of arms.

Figure 43

Parts of the percussion fuse

1. Percussion fuse carrier
2. Weight
3. Reinforcement axle
4. Buffer spring spacer
5. Reinforcement bolts
6. Shock spring
7. Shock nozzle
8. Buffer spring
9. Shock nozzle carrier
10. Buffer
11. Buffer bolts
12. Gaskets
13. Ring

3

Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition, and explosives (KPIs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8)

Reported progress

- **Strengthened border police capacities** across all jurisdictions
- Five jurisdictions reported **completed development of SOPs for Customs Administrations** while three jurisdictions reported accompanying training.
- Most jurisdictions reported strengthened operational capacities for the **K9 units** (infrastructure, specialized vehicles, storage capacity).
- **No reported cases of diversion** of exported arms or ammunition.
- Enhanced operational capacities of the **Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Units** contributing to their accreditation reported by all jurisdictions (dedicated instructions, trainings, specialized equipment, etc.)
- **Intensified efforts in the accreditation of Ballistic laboratories** were reported by most jurisdictions. Accreditation in several methods was reported by Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, and the Federation Ministry of Interior in BiH.



3

Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce misuse, illicit manufacturing, illicit possession, and illicit flows of weapons, ammunition, and explosives (KPIs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8)

Reported progress

- **Firearms Focal Point reported as established** in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Skopje, and Tirana.
- Sarajevo reports ongoing efforts to ensure its establishment;
- Continued **operational cooperation** with EUROPOL, INTERPOL, and FRONTEX.
- Active participation in preparatory meetings for the **Joint Action Days (SEE JAD) 2025**.

4 Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention (KPIs 9, 10, and 13)

Reported progress

- Activities related to **awareness raising, outreach, and education** reported in all jurisdictions, mainly focusing on:
 - Risks of misuse and illicit possession of firearms among the general population (Pristina, Skopje, Tirana, Sarajevo – Zenica Doboje and Bosnian Podrinje)
 - Dedicated awareness-raising campaigns – celebratory shootings (Pristina) and pyrotechnics (Skopje)
 - Firearms misuse in gender-based and domestic violence (All jurisdictions)
 - Targeting and engaging youth/young men (Belgrade)
 - Responsible ownership/safe storage reported (Belgrade)
 - Reducing firearms in illicit and legal possession (Podgorica, Belgrade, and Sarajevo)

- Awareness raising among licensed and legal entities and WAE producers remains limited – confined to inspections and routine monitoring.

Firearm-related Incidents January – June 2025

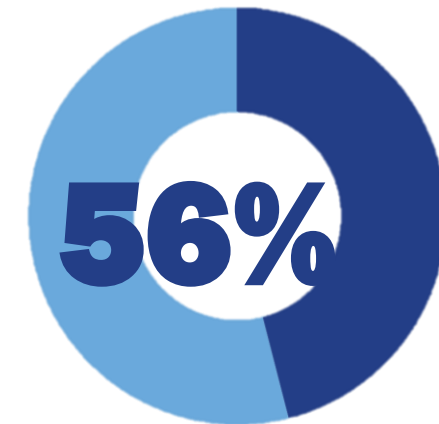
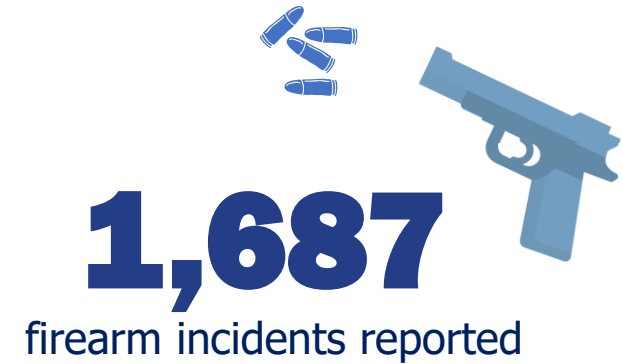
Weapon seizures remained the most frequently reported type of incident (56%), with handguns marking the most frequent type of weapon reported, followed by rifles/shotguns, and automatic or military-grade weapons.

Firearm incidents in the **criminal context (216 cases)** increased by **14%**, driven by a slight increase in incidents linked to **organised crime**. **Public disputes** involving **firearms** also marked an increase by **21%**.

Firearm incidents in **domestic settings (61 cases)** marked a minor decline. For the first time since 2018, the AVMP recorded **no women killed by a firearm** in a domestic setting.

In general, the region recorded **fewer victims with a fatal outcome** (from 70 in the previous reporting period to 50).

Incidents with gas pistols also declined (from 117 to **89 cases**),



of all incidents were
weapon seizures

4

Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention (KPIs 9, 10, and 13)

Reported progress

- In the first half of 2025, the following jurisdictions reported the reduction of weapons, ammunition, and explosives in civilian possession through **voluntary surrender**:
 - Belgrade: 7,880 pieces of weapons in legal possession.
 - Podgorica: 3,942 weapons in illicit possession, 130,088 rounds of ammunition, 439 hand grenades, and 97 kg of explosives – the highest figures recorded since the adoption of the Roadmap in 2018.
 - Sarajevo: 10 weapons in illicit possession in Brčko District, 2 in Sarajevo Canton, and 12 firearms, 8 hand grenades, and over 2,300 rounds of ammunition in Canton 10.
- Tirana and Skopje report no legal framework in place for voluntary surrender. Pristina reported no voluntary surrender campaign during the reporting period.

4

Goal

By 2030, significantly reduce the supply, demand, illicit possession and misuse of arms, ammunition and explosives through the means of prevention (KPIs 9, 10, and 13)

Reported progress

- **Deactivation** was also used as a measure to reduce the number of weapons in civilian possession in Belgrade and Podgorica.
 - Belgrade reported 472 pieces of registered weapons as deactivated.
 - Podgorica reported the deactivation of a record of 136 deactivated weapons – more than the total number reported since 2018 (77) .
- Sarajevo, Skopje, and Tirana reported ongoing efforts toward operationalizing the process of deactivation through improved infrastructure, specialized equipment, and knowledge exchange.
- Other jurisdictions reported no deactivation or legalization of weapons during the reporting period.

Reported progress



5

Goal

By 2030, substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives (KPIs 11 and 12)

- **Belgrade** reported the destruction of surplus ammunition and explosives (11,120 hand grenades, 860 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, 60 rounds of 7.9 mm ammunition, 412 rounds of 12.7 mm ammunition, and 53 rounds of 14.5 mm ammunition)
- Sarajevo reported the disposal of 41.48 tones of military ammunition and explosives through burning and detonation methods.
- Other jurisdictions reported **no destruction of surplus WAE**.
- No destruction of **confiscated WAE** was reported.

Reported progress



5

Goal

By 2030, substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives (KPIs 11 and 12)

- **Enhanced storage of weapons** was reported by most jurisdictions.
 - Belgrade and Podgorica – lockers for WAE storage.
 - Sarajevo and Skopje – enhanced operational capacities for officials responsible for safe storage of WAE.
 - Tirana – plans for construction of a Warehouse for seized and confiscated weapons, the reconstruction of two storage facilities, and upgrades to Armed Forces depots.
- **Increased number of inspections** reported by most of jurisdictions to private security companies, shops, shooting ranges, manufacturers, and civilians.

Challenges and needs

- **Knowledge and expertise** in the area of explosives precursors control.
- Evaluation and drafting the new SALW Control strategies.
- **Automated data exchange** among law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions.
- Capacity-building in conducting dark-web investigations.
- Need for further support in improving **investigation capacities**.
- **No legal provisions** in two jurisdictions regulating voluntary surrender of weapons.
- Continuous need for **strengthening the capacities of storage facilities**.

14th Regional
Progress
Reports



Thank you!

South Eastern and Eastern Europe
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