

Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW in the Western Balkans by 2024

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Roadmap Implementation Coordination and Monitoring Platform



Coordination and monitoring platform in place, funded by EU



Eight rounds of local coordination meetings and **eight regional coordination meetings**



Eight progress reports



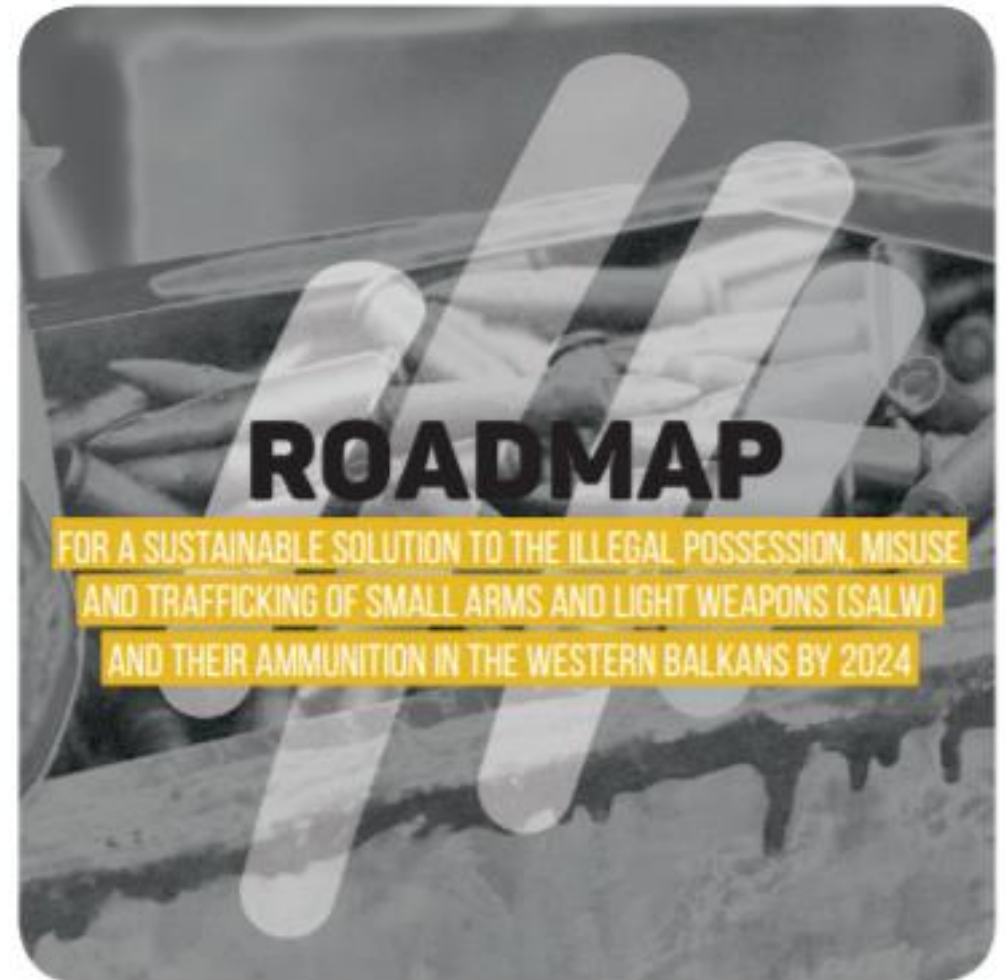
Regular overview of projects under implementation



Mid Term Review of the Roadmap

Reported progress and gaps

2019- | 2022



GOAL 1

By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, standardized across the region (KPI1)

CIVIL USE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION	Belgrade	Podgorica	Pristina	Sarajevo	Skopje	Tirana
Directive (EU) 2021/555 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons	●	●	●	●	●	●
Regulation 258/2012 Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol	●	●	●	●	●	●
Regulation 2018/337 establishing common guidelines on deactivation	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implementing Directive 2019/68 for the marking of firearms	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implementing Directive 2019/69 for technical specifications for alarm and signal weapons	●	●	●	●	●	●

CIVIL USE OF EXPLOSIVES	Belgrade	Podgorica	Pristina	Sarajevo	Skopje	Tirana
Regulation 2019/1148 on explosive precursors	●	●	●	●	●	●
Directive 2013/29/EU on pyrotechnics	●	●	●	●	●	●
Directive 2014/28/EU on explosives for civil use	●	●	●	●	●	●

GOAL 1 - By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations, standardized across the region (KPI1)

MILITARY USE OF FAE	Belgrade	Podgorica	Pristina	Sarajevo	Skopje	Tirana
Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of MTE	●	●	●	●	●	●
Common Military List of the European Union	●	●	●	●	●	●
Council Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the control of arms brokering	●	●	●	●	●	●
Directive 2009/43/EC simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products	●	●	●	●	●	●
Directive 2009/81/EC for the award of certain works contracts, in the fields of defense and security	●	●	●	●	●	●
Council Regulation (EC) 2021/821 for the control of dual-use items	●	●	●	●	●	●

	Belgrade	Podgorica	Pristina	Sarajevo	Skopje	Tirana
Arms Trade Treaty	●	●	●	●	●	●
UN Firearms Protocol	●	●	●	●	●	●



GOAL 2

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

REPORTED PROGRESS:

Overall, good progress is being made across the jurisdictions on implementation of Goal 2 (MTR).

- **SALW Commissions** with a strengthened oversight & coordination role;
- **Firearms Focal Points** established in five jurisdictions and operational to various degrees;
- **Increased exchange of operational information** and data with international and EU agencies reported;
- **Improved record-keeping** and information management capacities for firearms-related data reported in 3 jurisdictions.



GOAL 2

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

KEY GAPS:

- **Information sharing** between law enforcement agencies, prosecution and judiciary system a challenge in all jurisdictions;
- **Limited focus on addressing gender concerns in SALW control** across the region.



GOAL 3

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

REPORTED PROGRESS:

Moderate progress made indicated under this goal (MTR)

- **Standardization and harmonization of the approach to firearms related detection and investigations ongoing**
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Targeted training
 - Equipment;
- Significantly strengthened **regional and international cooperation mechanisms;**
- Increased engagement in **Operational Actions** within EMPACT; and cooperation with **EUROPOL** and **FRONTEX;**
- **None** of the jurisdictions reported identified cases of diversion of arms exports.



GOAL 3

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

KEY GAPS:

- Procedures for detection, analysis, investigation capacities are improving, yet not fully sustainable;
- Interinstitutional cooperation for investigations needs further improvement;
- Low number of adjudications on illicit arms trafficking;
- Challenges reported in conducting post-shipment verifications by most jurisdictions.



GOAL 4

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

REPORTED PROGRESS:

Limited progress identified during the first three years of Roadmap implementation (MTR)

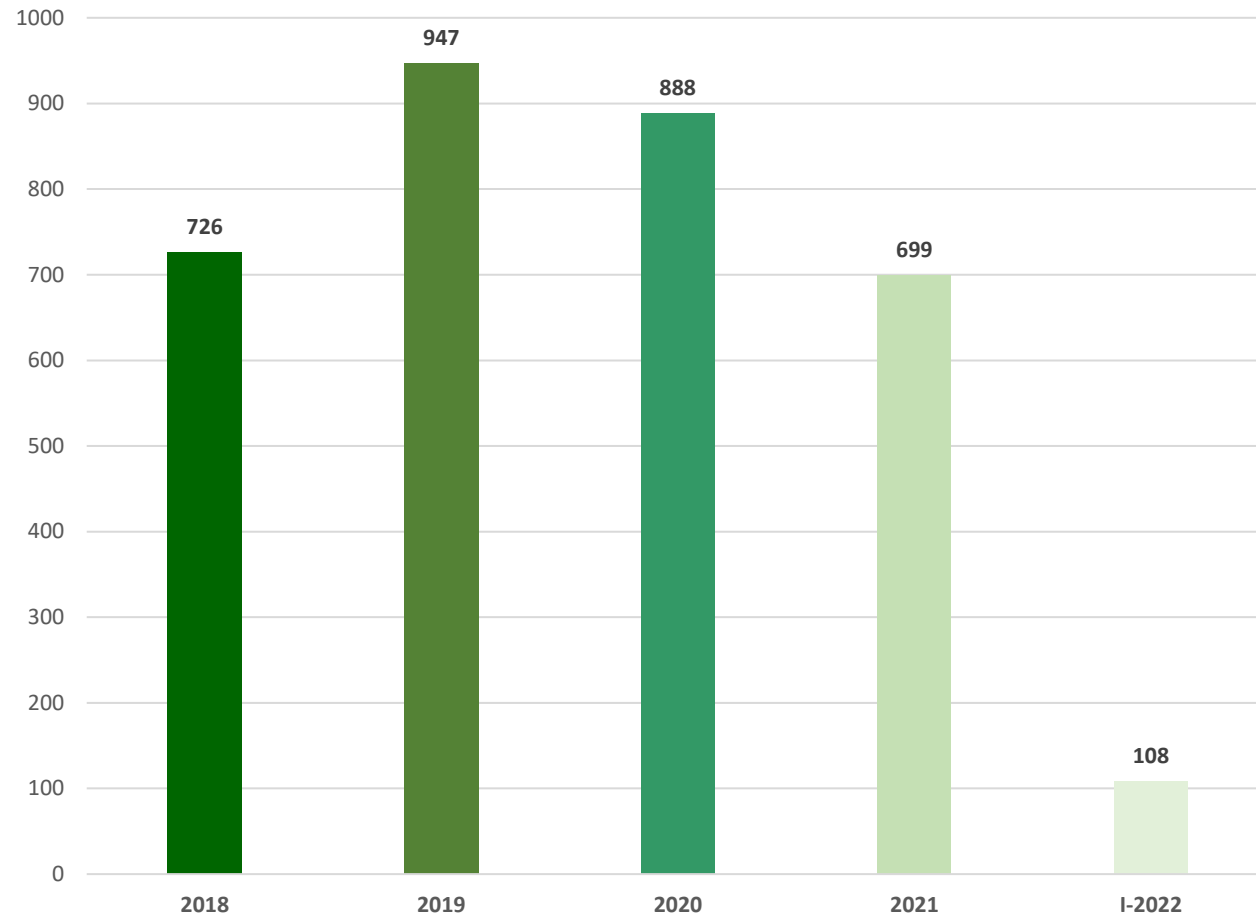
- Sporadic campaigns focused on **celebratory shootings, gender-based violence** and risks associated with the **use of pyrotechnics** in several jurisdictions;
- Number of firearm incidents involving victims is **in decrease since 2019**, but **majority still committed with illegal firearms**.

KEY GAPS:

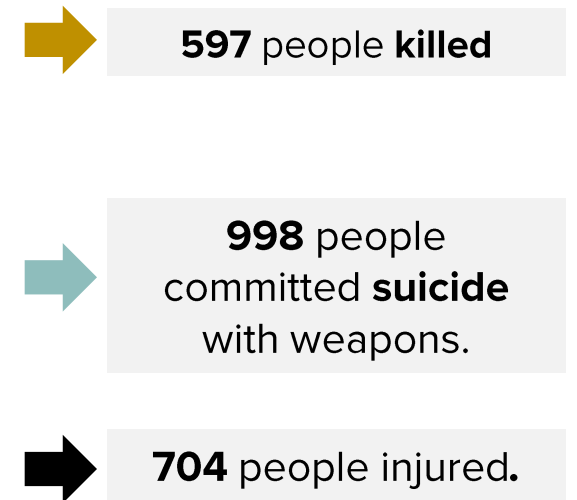
- **Awareness, public information, education** and outreach activities have been limited;
- **Domestic violence and SALW** identified as a critical issue across all jurisdictions, and it remains highly relevant.

KPI 10

NUMBER OF FIREARM INCIDENTS – VICTIMS 2018 - I-2022



OUTCOME FOR VICTIMS 2018 - I-2022





GOAL 5

By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

REPORTED PROGRESS:

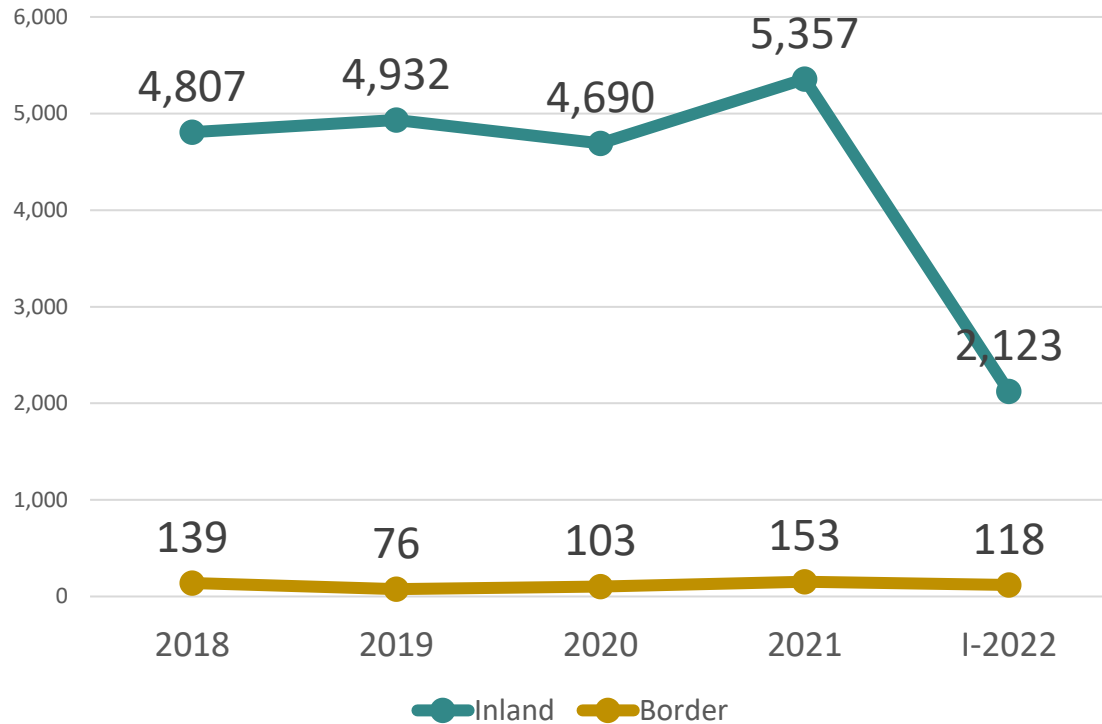
Overall relatively good progress, with exception of legal measures to enable legalisation and voluntary surrender of firearms. (MTR)

- Consistent levels of seizures of firearms since the start of the Roadmap implementation;
- **Voluntary surrender of firearms** reported by four jurisdictions; Majority of weapons in legal possession;
- **Legalization and deactivation of firearms** reported in four jurisdictions;
- **Re-registration of weapons** reported ongoing in two jurisdictions.

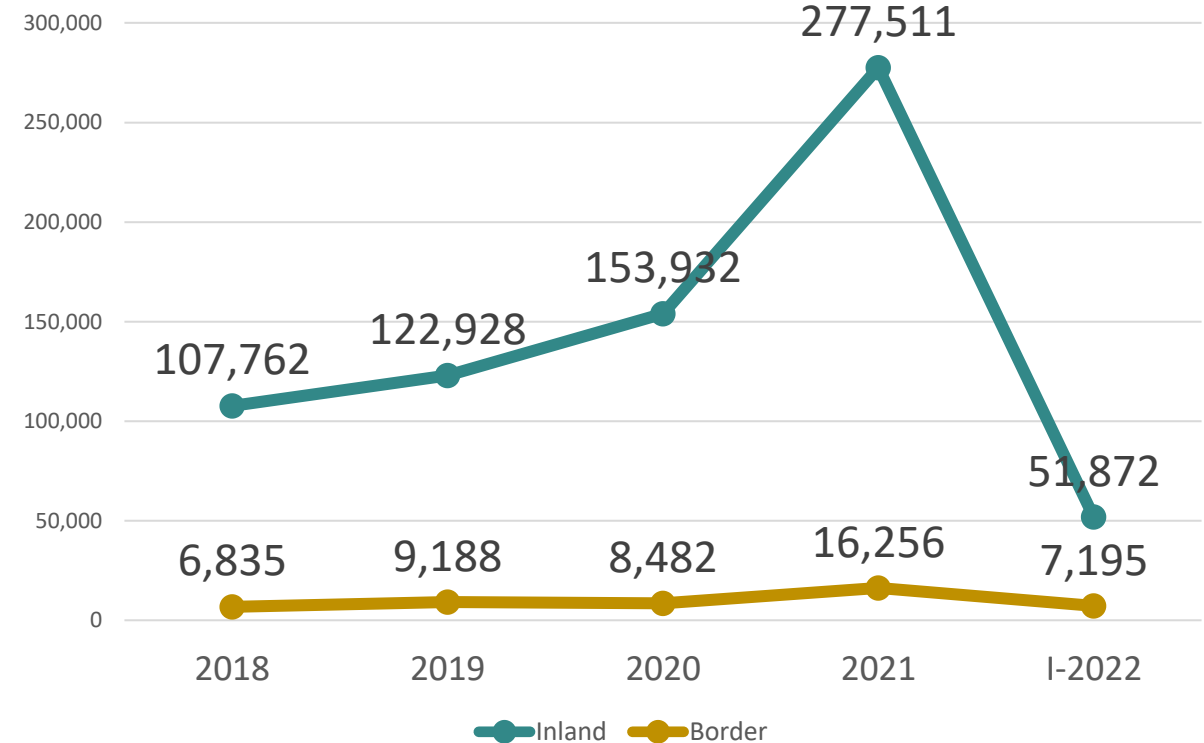
KPI 4 -

SEIZURES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (2018-I/2022)

SEIZED FIREARMS (pcs)



SEIZED AMMUNITION (pcs)





GOAL 5

By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.

KEY GAPS:

- Limited progress in adopting legal framework allowing for **voluntary surrender** and **legalization** of firearms;
- Legal framework for **deactivation** of firearms yet to be harmonized with EU Acquis in most jurisdictions; lack of trained personnel on firearms deactivation in each jurisdiction;
- Long **re-registration** processes of firearms due to limited capacities.



GOAL 6

Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

REPORTED PROGRESS:

Mixed progress made under this Goal (MTR)

Surplus and confiscated SALW/Firearms and ammunition destroyed (2018 – 1/2022)



52,452 pieces



15,473,690 pieces &
5,094 tonnes



GOAL 7

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

REPORTED PROGRESS:

Some progress made against this goal, but several challenges remain - partially implemented across most jurisdictions (MTR).

- Progress reported increasing safety and security mostly of law enforcement and to more limited extent of armed forces storage facilities in all jurisdictions;
- Inspection systems reported to be in place and inspections conducted regularly on civilian legal entities.

KEY GAPS:

- The need for further international support to upgrade security infrastructure of storages;
- The need for strengthening of capacities for inspections.

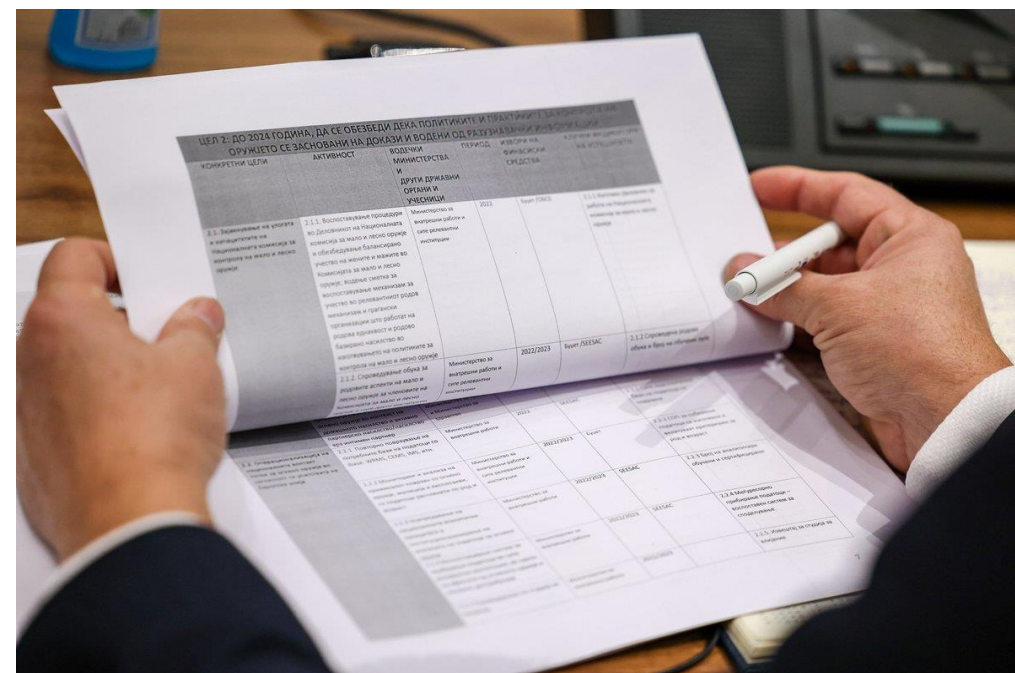
Mid Term Review – Key findings

- Roadmap is **highly relevant, effective**, with **strong local ownership; important progress** made;
- Important impact on **regional coordination and cooperation**;
- More progress in some areas (policy and administrative mechanisms) than others (public attitudes);
- **EU, Germany, and France** remain essential to supporting implementation;
- SEESAC remains a key factor in the **coherence of the Roadmap**, and in coordinating delivery.



Mid Term Review – Key recommendations

- Prioritise translating capacity and capability into **operational activity**;
- Prioritise **sustainability** during the final phase of Roadmap implementation;
- More emphasis on **whole of government approaches** is required;
- The goals are unlikely to be met in full, while SALW control will continue to be a priority for the Western Balkans and the EU;
- **An early decision on what follows is strongly encouraged.**



THANK YOU!

**South Eastern and Eastern Europe
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