

THE WESTERN BALKANS **SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS** CONTROL ROADMAP

2018 – 2024



The Roadmap for a sustainable solution to arms control in the Western Balkans by 2024 envisages the Western Balkans as a safer region where comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms, fully harmonized with the European Union and other international standards, are in place to identify, prevent, control and prosecute the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives. It is based on regional cooperation principles.

The Roadmap was developed by the Western Balkans authorities under the auspices of Germany, France and the EU with SEESAC support and in consultation with all relevant actors. The adoption of the document is the result of a record-breaking five-month consultation process, started in Podgorica on 1 February 2018 at the high-level meeting Reinforcing commitments towards SALW control in South East Europe. The process was followed by consultations at the local level in all jurisdictions across the region, agreed in Tirana at the 9th Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Commissions Meeting and adopted at the Western Balkans London Summit held on 10 July 2018.

Following one of the key recommendations of the Roadmap's Mid-Term Review completed in 2023, the authorities of the region expressed their agreement and commitment to continue the implementation of the Roadmap beyond 2024.

ROADMAP GOALS



GOAL 1	By 2023, ensure that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region.	
GOAL 2	By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence-led.	GOAL 5
GOAL 3	2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.	GOAL 6
GOAL 4	By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.	GOAL 7
		By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
		Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.
		Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of legal frameworks on arms control throughout the Western Balkans fully harmonized with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The Firearms Protocol)
- Number of evidence-based arms control policy documents, developed in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans, that are also addressing needs of men, women, boys and girls
- Number of cases, individuals and quantity of misused and trafficked firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) prosecuted and adjudicated in comparison to the number of law enforcement reports on seizures
- Number of cases and quantity of FAE seized inland compared to the number of cases and quantity of FAE seized at the borders
- Number of reported cases of FAE seized at the borders of the European Union and traced to the Western Balkans, compared to the number of FAE seized throughout the European Union and traced to or diverted from the Western Balkans
- Number of FAE for which export licenses were issued by the Western Balkans identified as diverted through postshipment control procedure
- Firearms Focal Points established and operational in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans
- Number of inter-institutional cooperation cases at operational level, including investigation, prosecution and pretrial phases
- Number of cases of operational cooperation sourced from intelligence information including ballistic intelligence in the fight against firearms related crimes, with authorities in the region, EU member states and agencies as well as international law enforcement agencies

2018 – 2023 STATUS OF

HARMONIZATION OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITH EU ACQUIS, ARMS TRADE TREATY AND UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL



- Harmonized
- Partially harmonized
- Not harmonized



- 10 Number of incidents involving firearms and victims affected by the misuse of firearms, disaggregated by gender and age, in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans
- 11 Number of FAE voluntarily surrendered, as well as firearms legalized or deactivated
- 12 Number of reported SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosives confiscated or surplus systematically destroyed
- 13 Number of SALW/firearms and their ammunition storage facilities in line with international safety and security standards
- 14 Percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence across the Western Balkans

CIVIL USE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION	BELGRADE	PODGORICA	PRISTINA	SARAJEVO	SKOPIJE	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	●	●	●	●	●	●
DIRECTIVE 2019/68 FOR THE MARKING OF FIREARMS	●	●	●	●	●	●
DIRECTIVE 2019/69 FOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR ALARM AND SIGNAL WEAPONS	●	●	●	●	●	●
CIVIL USE OF EXPLOSIVES	BELGRADE	PODGORICA	PRISTINA	SARAJEVO	SKOPIJE	TIRANA
REGULATION 2019/1148 ON EXPLOSIVE PRECURSORS	●	●	●	●	●	●
DIRECTIVE 2013/29/EU ON PYROTECHNICS	●	●	●	●	●	●
DIRECTIVE 2014/28/EU ON EXPLOSIVES FOR CIVIL USE	●	●	●	●	●	●
MILITARY USE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION	BELGRADE	PODGORICA	PRISTINA	SARAJEVO	SKOPIJE	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 DARMS 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	●	●	●	●	●	●
ARMS TRADE TREATY	●	●	●	●	●	●
UN FIREARMS PROTOCOL	●	●	●	●	●	●

WB SALW CONTROL ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION IN NUMBERS (2018 – 2023)

COUNTERING TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

FIREARMS

Seized inland **30,883** Seized at the borders **992**

AMMUNITION

Seized inland **972,975** Seized at the borders **70,726**

EXPLOSIVES – PIECES

Seized inland **3,285** Seized at the borders **104**

EXPLOSIVES – GRAMS

Seized inland **4,512,716** Seized at the borders **12,919**

SEIZED FIREARMS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inland	4,807	4,932	4,690	5,357	5,204	5,893
At the borders	139	76	103	153	171	350

SEIZED AMMUNITION

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inland	107,762	122,928	153,932	277,511	127,526	182,406
At the borders	6,835	9,135	8,482	16,256	18,062	11,956

SALW / FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION DESTROYED (2018 – 2023)



FIREARMS

Surpluses
46,451

Confiscated
17,180

AMMUNITION PIECES + AMMUNITION TONNES

Surpluses
15,740,319

Confiscated
125,322

Surpluses
5,229

FIREARMS VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED, LEGALIZED AND DEACTIVATED (2018 – 2023)

NUMBER OF VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED FIREARMS 

262,726

NUMBER OF VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AMMUNITION 

4,267,722

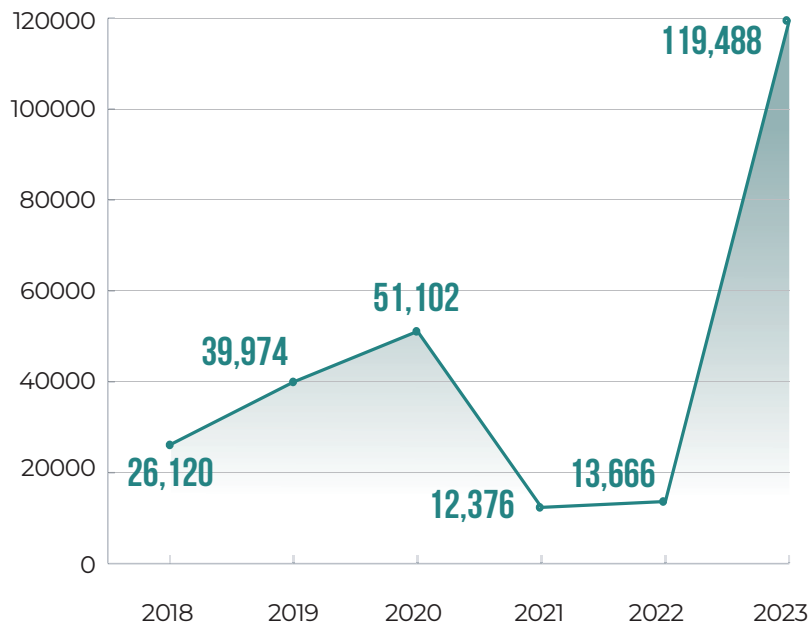
LEGALIZED FIREARMS

4,446

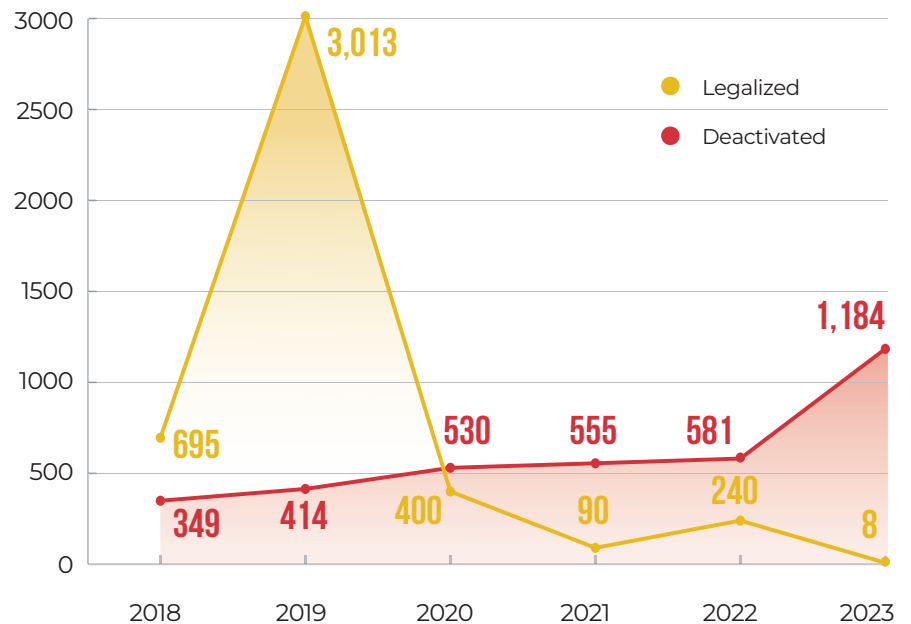
DEACTIVATED FIREARMS

3,613

VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED FIREARMS



LEGALIZED AND DEACTIVATED FIREARMS



KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4	GOAL 5	GOAL 6	GOAL 7

MID TERM REVIEW OF THE WB SALW CONTROL ROADMAP

The aim: to provide a thorough understanding of the progress made by the WB authorities in achieving the goals of the Roadmap and in establishing sustainable capacities for the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition.

- ▶ Period covered: 2019 – 2021

>175 people were interviewed

KEY FINDINGS:

- ▶ The effectiveness and the relevance of the Roadmap to all aspects of SALW control were confirmed by the Mid Term Review.
- ▶ The Roadmap conveys a strong signal of cooperation among WB jurisdictions and with external partners.
- ▶ The coordination and cooperation have increased, showing already early signs of impact.
- ▶ Progress towards each goal of the Roadmap is mostly on track.
- ▶ Additional emphasis on learning and whole-of-government approaches is required, along with a greater focus on awareness, data management, and analysis capabilities.
- ▶ Funding and technical support from external partners have been relevant to Roadmap goals and to local-level priorities.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ▶ Ensure ongoing relevance to the context through regular threat assessments and conflict and political economy analysis.
- ▶ Prioritize sustainability and translating capacity and capability into operational activity.
- ▶ Move beyond commitment to the principle of gender equality during the next phase of implementation.
- ▶ Consider additional funding for areas of the Roadmap that may have been unprioritized.
- ▶ Achieve greater coherence in partner support, aligned closely with local priorities.
- ▶ Consider reducing reporting requirements during the second phase of Roadmap implementation.
- ▶ Strongly encourage making an early decision on what follows after 2024.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND GOOD PRACTICES:

- ▶ Political engagement is required to elevate cooperation beyond operational coordination.
- ▶ Improving coordination requires targeted efforts.
- ▶ SALW control is the 'tip of the iceberg' that can facilitate engagement on other more sensitive topics.
- ▶ Distinguishing between political commitment and ambition and a realistic plan for implementation is important for combining ambitious goals and a realistic timetable for delivery.
- ▶ Linking the Roadmap to aspirations for EU accession helps to encourage political ownership and leadership.
- ▶ Active cooperation among institutions across the criminal justice sector is essential for intelligence- and evidence-led planning and operations.
- ▶ Cultural change or changes in social norms takes time.



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KEY DONORS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN BALKANS SALW CONTROL ROADMAP

