



CONTRIBUTION BY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Roadmap

for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), their ammunition and explosives in the Western Balkans¹

¹ Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by SEESAC for the purpose of collecting information regarding the ongoing projects and activities contributing to small arms and light weapons (SALW) control in the Western Balkans and to be distributed during the *15th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting that will be held on 8-9 July 2026, in Podgorica, Montenegro.*

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² For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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INTRODUCTION

The following inputs received from international and regional partners have been collected for the purpose of sharing information regarding projects and activities contributing to small arms and light weapons (SALW) control in the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap, covering the period from January 1st 2025 to the end of April 2026. According to the inputs received, 37 projects were under implementation during the reporting period.

- As of 30 April 2026, 26 fully funded and 11 partially funded projects are under implementation.
- Fully funded projects under implementation amount to approximately EUR 33 mln, while partially funded projects amount to approximately EUR 30 mln³, with remaining funding gaps⁴ of approximately EUR 11,1 mln.
- Out of all projects under implementation, 9 projects with a total value of USD 15.4 million (approximately EUR 13.3 million⁵) run until the end of 2026 under the [UN's Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#). The total number of projects supported by the [UN's Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) reached 25 since its establishment. By 1st January 2026, the Trust Fund had mobilised USD 30.4 million (approximately EUR 26,4 million⁶) in total contributions.
- The amount of funds granted from 2018 until December 2025 for projects directly contributing to the Roadmap is approximately EUR 95,7 mln, for implementation from 2018-2029.
- Since 2018, 20 implementing partners have supported the authorities in the implementation of the Roadmap.
- In terms of contributions by projects currently under implementation to each goal⁷ of the Roadmap, in brief:
 - 6 projects are contributing to the implementation of Goal 1
 - 17 projects are contributing to the implementation of Goal 2
 - 28 projects are contributing to the implementation of Goal 3
 - 13 projects are contributing to the implementation of Goal 4
 - 18 projects are contributing to the implementation of Goal 5

³ Figures are based on voluntary information provided by international organizations in advance of the 15th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting.

⁴ The amounts reported reflect the funding that projects have secured to date, while the funding gaps represent the additional resources reported as necessary to carry out their planned activities.

⁵ The figure presented reflects the amount calculated using the UN exchange rate applicable at the time of drafting the report.

⁶ The MPTF has received multiple contributions in different currencies over a six-year period. The figure provided reflects the amount converted using the UN exchange rate applicable at the time of drafting the report.

⁷ To be noted that one project can contribute to more than one Roadmap Goal.

FULLY FUNDED PROJECTS

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	BAFA (Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control) ⁸
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>EU Council Decision 2025/208/CFSP on the Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls (COARM VII)</p> <p>European External Action Service, Directorate for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention, E-mail: NonProliferation-Disarm@eeas.europa.eu</p> <p>Ms. Sandra Raca, Head of Division 225 – Outreach Projects/Policy, E-mail: Sandra.Raca@bafa.bund.de</p>
PROJECT DURATION	March 2025 – February 2028
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	According to Art. 6 of the Annex of the Council Decision 2025/208/CFSP; Among others: South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia)
DONOR	European Union, co-financed by the German Federal Foreign Office and BAFA
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 2,338,913
FUNDING GAPS	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting effective controls on arms export by third countries. • Supporting efforts at national and regional level to render trade in conventional weapons more responsible and transparent, and to mitigate the risk of the diversion of arms to unauthorized users through the transfer of expertise.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production and trade as well as counter illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations.

⁸ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because its beneficiaries extend beyond those of the Roadmap.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly exchange good practices with a specific focus on harmonization of the legal framework with the EU Regulatory framework and other international obligations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially strengthen risk analysis systems, control, monitoring and prevention of diversion from legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Conference for EU Candidate jurisdictions in Belgrade, Serbia, May 2025. Remote Legal Review of the Albanian “Law on State, International Transfer Control of Military Goods and Dual-Use Items and Technologies”. Workshop for Training Personnel at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Arms Export Controls, September 2025. Train-the-Trainer (ToT) Workshop conducted, February 2026.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Conference for EU Candidate jurisdictions was successfully organised. The Assessment of EU candidates alignment to the EU Acquis was successfully conducted. Workshop for Training Personnel at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Arms Export Controls, September 2025. Albanian “Law on State, International Transfer Control of Military Goods and Dual-Use Items and Technologies” adopted in 2026. Awareness and understanding of EU policies in the field of conventional arms exports in particular the Common Position 2008/944/CFSP was increased, and jurisdictions were supported in aligning their legislation with the Common Position 2008/944/CFSP. Eight government representatives successfully received training to serve as trainers within their respective governments.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Outreach to Industry in Albania 25-26 May 2026 Supporting Outreach to Industry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 2026 (TBC)

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) Project ⁹
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Activity contact point: Mr. Lukasz Gorobec, Action Leader Operational Action 6.1. Empact Firearms and Explosives, JAD SEE Coordinator, Police (Poland), E-mail: lukasz.gorobec@cbsp.policja.gov.pl
PROJECT DURATION	2026-2029
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, CEPOL, Denmark, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, Estonia France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, INTERPOL, Kosovo, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Moldova, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Romania, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom USFDA
DONOR	European Union, led by Poland
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 2026-2027: EMPACT FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES ISF (EUR 2,150,000) • EUR 3,000 to 60,000 under specific operational request. Operational funding is supported by the Low Value Grant and Eastern Partnership, the latter is exclusively aimed at Eastern European jurisdictions. • For 2025-2027: ISF FORTIFY (EUR 3,000,000)
FUNDING GAPS	Funds preassigned to activities identified at the beginning of the projects.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project aims to combat firearms trafficking by implementing various Operational Actions outlined in the 2024-2025 Operational Action Plan. These actions address identified needs within jurisdictions, EU Member States, and international partners, including SEESAC. The operational actions have a comprehensive approach from the operational and strategic response to the external dimension, capacity building, innovation and prevention, by developing activities addressed by the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal intelligence picture; • Investigations and judicial response, with a specific focus on high-risk criminal networks (HRCN) and key individuals; • Coordinated controls and operations targeting the online and offline trade in illicit goods and services; • Criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery; • Document fraud;

⁹ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because its beneficiaries extend beyond those of the Roadmap.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building through training, networking and innovation; • Prevention and harm reduction, assistance to victims, awareness raising; • External dimension: cooperation with non-EU partners; • Administrative approach.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. • Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE Coordination meeting of international partners in support of SALW control efforts in Ukraine, February 2025, online. • SEE-JAD 2025 Preparatory meeting, February 2025, online. • SEESAC Regional Steering Group. Meeting on SALW, March 2025, online. • COM - 3rd meeting on the state of play and way forward on the establishment of Firearms Focal Points and the standardisation of data collection on firearms at EU level, March 2025, Brussels (Belgium). • Participated to European Firearms Experts Steering Committee and Plenary Meeting (EFE), April 2025, Warsaw (Poland). • FORTIFY Kick-off meeting, April 2025, Madrid (Spain). • OSCE - Expert Discussion "Joint Measures to Counter Illicit Trafficking of Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives (WAE) in Ukraine", April 2025, online. • CEPOL – Training Firearms Focal Points, May 2025, Lisbon (Portugal) • CONVERSUS-ARMSTRONG Meeting, May 2025, Madrid (Spain). • 13th Meeting of the EU support hub for internal security and border management in Moldova, June 2025, Chisinau (Moldova). • SEE-JAD 2025 Planning meeting – intelligence and operational phase, June 2025, online • SEE-JAD 2025 Coordination meeting, July 2025, Tirana (Albania). • EMPACT Firearms fine-tuning meeting, September 2025, The Hague (Netherlands). • SEE-JAD intelligence phase and preparatory meeting, September 2025, Warsaw (Poland).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FORTIFY - Expert Meeting on “Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in Different Stages of the Conflict Cycle – Lessons Learned and Good Practices from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe”, October 2025, Vienna (Austria). • FRONTEX-CEPOL-EMPACT Industry days, October 2025, Zagreb (Croatia). • SEE-JAD 2025 Coordination meeting, October 2025, online. • SALW Control Matrix Ukraine, January 2026, coordinated by OSCE – online • Preparatory meeting SEE-JAD 2025, OA 8.1, January 2026, online. • EMPACT FI-X Kick-off meeting, February 2026, The Hague (Netherlands). • SEE-JAD 2025 Operational phase, March 2026, Tirana (Albania).
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotation of Driver in EMPACT Firearms. Loss of expertise. • Reduced commitment of JAD SEE beneficiaries, which led to a postponement of the JAD SEE 2025 to Q1 2026. • New EMPACT FI-X funding implementation via specific ISF.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the FRONTEX-CEPOL-EMPACT Industry days, October 2025, Zagreb (Croatia). • JAD-SEE 2025 Operational phase, March 2026, Tirana (Albania).
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAD-SEE 2026 Preparatory meeting OA 6.1, May 2026, online. • JAD-SEE 2026 Pre-meeting, June 2026, Podgorica (Montenegro).

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST) ¹⁰
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Western Balkan Criminal Project (WBCJ) Contact point: Ms. Azra Ikovic, E-mail: azra.ikovic@eurojust.europa.eu
PROJECT DURATION	September 2022 – December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Western Balkan judicial and law enforcement authorities
DONOR	European Union (Pre-accession Assistance IPA III instrument)

¹⁰ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 6,000,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Enhance operational and strategic cross-border cooperation within the Western Balkans and between the region and the EU on fighting organised crime and terrorism using modern tools and instruments.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encourage new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (1 January 2025 – end April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the reporting period, the WBCJ project supported 12 cross-border cases on weapons trafficking involving WB authorities (out of 57 cases supported in total) • The project supported WB authorities with low value equipment, support to special investigative measures and coordination meetings
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the start of the project in September 2022, the WBCJ project supported 13 cases on weapons trafficking involving WB authorities (out of 91 cases supported in total). Seven of these cases were opened at Eurojust, while 6 were not (including WB-WB cases not involving EU MS). • The project supported action day organised by WB authorities within a JIT, leading to the arrest of dozens of suspects and illicit weapons such as pistols, long guns, hand grenades and ammunition¹¹ • The project supported cases between authorities in the following jurisdictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albania – Kosovo (JIT) ○ Albania – Italy (JIT) ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia – Slovenia – Austria ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – Austria ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sweden ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – Serbia ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – France ○ Kosovo – Sweden

¹¹ <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/arms-trafficking-group-uncovered-albania-and-kosovo>

	o Serbia - Germany
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	Support ongoing and future investigations upon request of the WB authorities.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>EMPACT FIA 2024 - OA 5.3 (led by Frontex)</p> <p>Further development of the firearms detection activities, updates, translations and implementation of the Handbook on Firearms for LEA, Border Guards and Customs in EU, WB and international version, with the implementation of the Firearms Course and Train the Trainer sessions to facilitate constant use and implementation of the Handbook on Firearms among respective participating jurisdictions. Promotion of the handbook application in all relevant OA's.</p> <p>Operationalisation of the addendum recommendations on the impact of RU aggression on UA on firearms trafficking. Enhancing and strengthening capabilities in detecting and accessing sophisticated vehicle concealments used in trafficking illicit goods (weapons/drugs/money).</p> <p>Contact point: Mr. Adam Piotrowski, Action Leader Operational Action 8.5. Empact Firearms, FRONTEX, E-mail: Adam.Piotrowski@frontex.europa.eu</p>
PROJECT DURATION	2022- ongoing
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	WB jurisdictions, EUBAM MD/UA, Moldova, Ukraine, EU Member States
DONOR	European Union
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A

FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of materials from partners on firearms and ammunition trafficking seizures for possible updates of the WB version of the handbook. • Organization of workshops concentrated upon developing capacity building activities linked to the regional Western Balkan version of the Handbook on firearms, such as firearms detection course and Train the Trainer to be applied at the BCP levels. • Translation and distribution of the Western Balkans version of the handbook in the respective languages. • To explore possibilities for further updates/versions of the Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs especially in relation to specific modus operandi in cooperation with SEESAC, Border Police forces and Customs authorities and based on the results of the operations implemented under EMPACT Firearms and emerging threats from border perspective as well as based on regular contributions from Border and Customs authorities. • Using and testing the Handbook in operational actions, including EMPACT Firearms Priority related in order to apply in the field and gather feedback for further possible developments. • Collection of the data related to the firearms trafficking cases in WB via WB-RAN created by Frontex. • Fostering law enforcement capabilities through integration of innovative tools. • Enhancing response to firearms trafficking through strengthening capabilities in detecting and accessing sophisticated vehicle concealments used in trafficking illicit goods (weapons/drugs/money).
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the Trainer Advanced Concealment Workshop, participated by Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia, 23-25 October 2025. • Industry Days on technological solutions in CBC counteraction, participated by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, 07-09 October 2025 in Zagreb, Croatia. • Train-the-Trainer Advanced Concealment Workshops were held in Luxembourg in February and in Bulgaria in March 2026, with participation from representatives of all

	<p>six jurisdictions. The latter followed by action days at Bulgarian/ North Macedonian border in synergy with JAD SEE 2025 implementation.</p>
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional WB version of the Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs was developed in coordination with SEESAC and distributed to the WBs' jurisdictions. • Better understanding and information exchange on challenges in countering firearms trafficking (including impact and the potential threat of the weapons trafficking from Ukraine and the nexus between firearms trafficking, illicit possession and migrant smuggling in the Western Balkans) • The knowledge of law enforcement officers from the Western Balkans was strengthened through the Firearms Detection Courses (FDC) organized with SEESAC in 2024. • Workshops on Vehicle Concealments held in Brussels, 24-25 September 2024.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<p>Insufficient human resources to implement further dedicated activities for WB, e.g. Firearms Detection Courses.</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY</p>	<p>European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)¹²</p>
<p>PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON</p>	<p>IPA III Regional Programme: EU Regional Support to strengthen border security capacities in the Western Balkans</p> <p>Contact point: Mr. Adam Piotrowski, Action Leader Operational Action 8.5. Empact Firearms, FRONTEX, E-mail: Adam.Piotrowski@frontex.europa.eu</p>
<p>PROJECT DURATION</p>	<p>2023 - 2026</p>
<p>PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES</p>	<p>Western Balkans jurisdictions</p>

¹² This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

DONOR	European Union
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 7,000,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of Western Balkans Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategies with European Integrated Border Management (EIBM); • Operationalization of Status Agreements; • Developing National Coordination Centers (NCCs) in the context of EUROSUR; • Technical component – delivery of technical equipment for border checks and for border surveillance, and for NCCs.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activity that is directly connected with firearms: Promotion of the regional Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs Officers in the Western Balkans.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional Handbook on Firearms for Border Guards and Customs Officers in the Western Balkans was promoted.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of priorities among partners.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	N/A

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL) ¹³
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¹³ The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, held in December 2025, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Analysis Project Weapons & Explosives
PROJECT DURATION	N/A
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	EU member states and operational partners (In Western Balkans BA, SR, AL, MK, ME, MD and UA)
DONOR	European Union
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To support its Member States in preventing and combating all forms of serious international and organised crime, cybercrime and terrorism
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that every weapon recovered or seized is traced (domestically and/or internationally) <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2025: Action Day supported by Europol after an SI investigation into a criminal network with WB roots responsible for violent crime, drug trafficking and weapon trafficking • March 2025: Action Day supported by Europol after a long lasting FR investigation into the supply of assault rifles and hand grenades from WB sources • April 2025: contribution to the SEESAC Regional Meeting of Criminal Police Representatives in Tirana (AL) focusing on Alarms and Signal Weapons (ASW's) • From May 2025 – (ongoing): Support by Europol to SE investigation OP AVATAR/ JIT DAPPLE into the supply of hand grenades from WB sources (BA) to SE, NL, FR, DE • September 2025: start of OP PRIA with NL and AL on pyrotechnics supply from AL • September 2025: Providing training to Montenegrin investigators on firearms trafficking (Podgorica, organised by CEPOL)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2025: providing training to Serbian forensic (weapon) investigators on TRAFFIC and EVOFINDER and making assessment of the quality and use of the equipment funded by EU MS FR and NL. SEE JAD 2025: support by Europol to the Southeast European Joint Action Days 2025 intelligence phase and preparations (operational phase postponed to March 2026).
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seizures of weapons and hand grenades in operational case supported by Europol.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of contributions from EU MS on seizures and investigations into the supply of weapons and explosives from WB to EU; Lack of contributions from WB jurisdictions on seizures and investigations into the supply of weapons and explosives from WB to EU.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04/12/2025: Annual EUROPOL Analysis Project Weapons and Explosives meeting for all EU MS and operational partners in Western Balkans.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) ^{14 15}
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Western Balkans Partnership Against Crime and Terrorism - WB PACT II Contact point: Mr. Gheorghe Despa, E-mail: gheorghe.despa@cepol.europa.eu
PROJECT DURATION	01 April 2024 – 31 March 2028
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
DONOR	European Union, represented by the European Commission
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 6,000,000

¹⁴ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

¹⁵ The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The action has two specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen operational cooperation within the Western Balkans and between the region and the EU on organised crime and terrorism using the expertise of the Justice and Home Affairs Agencies. • To enhance the Western Balkans' strategic cooperation and the use of coherent approaches in addressing challenges related to organised crime and terrorism.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training on firearms trafficking in Podgorica, Montenegro, from 15–19 September 2025, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior of Serbia.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations into poly-criminal organised crime groups by strengthening intelligence analysis, international cooperation, and police-prosecutors' coordination improved.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	N/A

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	GIZ, Italian Ministry of Interior, Civipol, Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) ^{16 17}
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	EU Support to strengthen the fight against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans (EU4FAST); Contact point: Mr. Oliver Janser, GIZ Project Manager, E-mail: oliver.janser@giz.de
PROJECT DURATION	02 June 2023 – 31 May 2027

¹⁶ This project is excluded from the total reported funding amount because it is not exclusively related to SALW.

¹⁷ The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, held in December 2025, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Balkan Ministries of Interior, Ministry of Security, Ministries of Human Rights and Refugees, Ministries of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Public Prosecution offices, Police agencies, Financial Intelligence Units, Local and international NGO's, social services
DONOR	EU, BMZ, Italian Ministry of Interior, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 39,303,022
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Overall objective of the action is to strengthen the rule of law in the Western Balkans. The specific objective of the action is to improve the conditions for preventing and combatting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Planning Meeting for the Joint Action Day South East Europe (JAD SEE) 2025, focused on the Intelligence and Operational Phase (OA 8.1 & 3.1 EMPACT FIA) on 10-11 June in Tirana. Continued supporting EUROPOL/EMSC, and Western Balkan jurisdictions in implementing OTF Zebra.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU4FAST supported meetings between EUROPOL/EMSC, EU Member States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other Western Balkan (WB) jurisdictions to discuss strategies for jointly confronting migrant smuggling groups from Afghanistan, which currently operate primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania, as well as in other EU Member States. To more effectively counter armed smuggling groups from Afghanistan, EUROPOL established the Operational Task Force Zebra (OTF Zebra). This was the result of discussions and agreements made during several meetings supported by EU4FAST. EU4FAST was co-action leader of the Joint Action Day South-East Europe (JAD SEE) 2024. As a result of the massive operation, 796 individuals were arrested, 316 investigations initiated and 442 weapons seized. Within this operation, performed under the motto “Uniting Forces Against Organised Crime”, 31,109 officers on duty performed

	655,914 checks on entities, which included 516,153 persons, 152,284 vehicles, 4,985 postal packages and 1,181 premises.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU4FAST is continuing the support to increase the active and meaningful participation of WB partners in EMPACT and, where possible, to encourage/realise co-leadership of WB partners of OAs under the five OAPs, including FIA, particularly important in preparation for the upcoming new EMPACT cycle.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	ITF Enhancing Human Security
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) support in Albania Mr. Blaž Mihelič, Project Manager, E-mail: Blaz.Mihelic@itf.si Ms. Nataša Uršič, Project Manager, E-mail: Natasa.Ursic@itf.si
PROJECT DURATION	1 September 2024 - 30 June 2027
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Interior of Albania
DONOR	United States of America
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,232,239
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The primary objective of the project is to improve capacity of Ministry of Interior (MoI) to manage and store conventional weapons and ammunition. Construction of storage facility.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An MoU was signed and Technical specifications were prepared. The project design phase of the project for construction of the facility for temporary storage of collected SALW in Albania has been completed. The first Steering Committee meeting was held on 17 February 2026 in Albania

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction permit process was initiated
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project design phase for the construction of the temporary storage facility for collected SALW in Albania was completed.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is expected to proceed with the contracting, organize a field visit with the donor, and launch a Call for Offers for the construction of the temporary storage facility for collected SALW in Albania.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	ITF Enhancing Human Security
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Weapons stockpile management in Serbia Mr.Blaž Mihelič, Project Manager, e-mail: blaz.mihelic@itf.si and Mr.Andrej Golob, e-mail: andrej.golob@itf.si
PROJECT DURATION	2025-2027
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Interior of Serbia
DONOR	United States of America
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,456,115
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Improve physical infrastructure and management systems of evidence rooms, installing necessary equipment and introducing improvements in general security protocols.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITF-MoI Serbia MoU prepared and awaiting final MoI approval and signature

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits conducted and technical specifications being prepared based on warehouse inspections (10 locations) • Field visit with the Donor implemented
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	N/A
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of site visits • Elaboration of technical specifications for individual storage rooms requirements. • Call for Offers launched for Project Design and Renovation Works in the individual storage rooms.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	NATO ¹⁸
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Upgrade of Arms Rooms of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ms. Renata Zaleska, Programme Manager for DCB BiH, E-mail: zaleska.renata@hq.nato.int Mr. Nicholas Minogue, Officer, ADN/PASP, NATO IS, E-mail: minogue.nicholas@hq.nato.int
PROJECT DURATION	TBD
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Bosnia and Herzegovina: Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces
DONOR	NATO (Allied nations through DCB Trust Fund contributions)
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	Total amount: TBD Preliminary Phase: EUR 46,525
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the BiH MoD and AF in upgrading the security of identified Armed Forces units' arms rooms up to international standards.

¹⁸ The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the risk of loss and diversion of SALW and their ammunition in coordination with the Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Master Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation of project proposal based on the findings of the Preliminary Phase (Q4).
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	N/A
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of NATO DCB project proposal to donors for implementation to commence Q2 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	NATO ¹⁹
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Developing institutional capabilities for good governance, accountability and prevention of corruption in the process of life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition: Lessons learned and good practices from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dr. Nadja Milanova, E-mail: milanova.nadja@hq.nato.int
PROJECT DURATION	2022-2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence, Jurisdictions in the South Eastern Europe
DONOR	Switzerland (earmarked funding within the NATO BI Trust Fund)
PROJECT FUNDING AMOUNT	Estimated EUR 60,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw upon the lessons learned from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of accountability and life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their

¹⁹ The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

	<p>ammunition and develop a methodology to analyse good governance risks in this area and possible solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an actionable and practical intervention toolkit in the form of a handbook for institutionalising good practices of DIB/AC to include inter alia tailored “knowledge materials” on BI, good governance and arms control for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition as one of the functional area across the DIB/AC spectrum. • Build jurisdiction capabilities for strengthening accountability and good governance in the process of life cycle management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition and explosives. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the finalization of the draft handbook.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	N/A
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the finalization of the draft handbook

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Physical Security and Stockpile Management/SALW/ammunition capacity enhancement Project Mr. György RÁBAI, email: grabai@racviac.org
PROJECT DURATION	From 2020 onward

PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Jurisdictions of the region (RACVIAC jurisdictions, beneficiaries of the Roadmap)
DONOR	RACVIAC, Austria, Croatia, Germany
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>Keeping a focus on the life cycle management of SALW and ammunition issue as a continuation of capacity building in PSSM of armed forces in the region through the RASR process.</p> <p>The activity will aim to target armed forces throughout the region in further improving the capacities related in particular to stockpile security and safety, including ammunition surveillance. At least one annual (educational) event is to be devoted to this particular aspect in the future (from 2020 ongoing) with the aim of keeping regional cooperation focused on this specific – military – side of the issue.</p>
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One workshop jointly organized with SEESAC, UNODA and GICHD AMAT. Arms Control Symposium was organized between 10-13 November 2025
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacities of the armed forces in charge for PSSM were increased through dedicated workshops.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize the Arms Control Symposium between 26-30 October 2026 Organize a Regional Workshop on Preparing for the Meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management between 8-10 December 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention of Southeast Europe (PCC SEE) ²⁰
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Practical Implementation of the PCC SEE - Support in the deployment of officers among Contracting Parties pursuant to Article 26 PCC SEE for the purpose of criminal investigations Ms. Katarina Lednik: E-mail: k.lednik@dcaf.ch
PROJECT DURATION	This is a <u>permanent</u> offer of the PCC SEE Secretariat for an indefinite period.
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	12 Contracting Parties to the PCC SEE, namely: Albania, Austria, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia
DONOR	PCC SEE Secretariat core budget.
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	N/A
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	None
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Facilitate any phase of the ongoing criminal investigation in the beneficiary by deploying law enforcement officers from one beneficiary to the territory of another for a specified period of time in order to provide on-site expertise and operational support.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January – end of December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCC SEE Secretariat has facilitated deployments of criminal investigators, however none were related to investigations in illicit manufacturing, possession, or trafficking of WAE.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the criminal investigations supported over the years against different forms of cross-border crime, charges were brought against multiple individuals in the SEE region. At least ten suspects were members of a criminal organisation engaged in cocaine trafficking, the smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives, and human smuggling. Several firearms and quantities of ammunition were seized during the investigative actions.

²⁰ The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

	Note: The PCC SEE Secretariat does not collect or store operational data. Information on case outcomes is available only when voluntarily shared by the beneficiary authorities.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deployment of officers is supported, upon request, by the beneficiary jurisdictions.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support for SEESAC Disarmament and Arms Control Activities in South East Europe Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	2024-2027
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministries of Interior, Police Services, Ministries of Economy, Customs Administrations, Prosecution Offices, and other relevant institutions in South East Europe
DONOR	European Union - EU Council Decision 2024/3006
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 3,999,920.60
FUNDING GAPS	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project is contributing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of a legislative and regulatory framework on SALW, firearms, and explosives, and its harmonisation with the EU framework and standardisation in South-East Europe; Capacity building of customs authorities, border police and criminal police services of the Western Balkans to counter illicit trafficking and possession of firearms; Continuation of evidence-based policy-making on SALW control, addressing the needs of both men and women; Strengthened regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on SALW control through continued regional meetings of SALW Commissions and SEEFEN;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive support for capacity building of border police, criminal police services, and customs authorities of the Western Balkans • Further enhancement of capacities for Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM).
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as counter trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations. • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production and possession for civil use and counter trafficking and misuse of explosives (including pyrotechnics) and explosive precursors in line with the EU regulatory framework. • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production and trade as well as counter illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations. <p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/align SALW strategies and/or the Action Plans with the Roadmap. • Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking. • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. • Strengthen planning, coordination and monitoring functions of SALW Commissions to ensure effective policies on arms control. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially strengthen risk analysis systems, control, monitoring and prevention of diversion from legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE. <p>Goal 4:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically decrease surplus stockpile of SALW, ammunition and explosives through destruction in an environmentally benign manner and through other means. • Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)</p>	<p>Facilitation of regional cooperation and support for evidence-based policymaking on SALW control, thus further contributing to the reduction of the threat of illicit proliferation of SALW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cooperation and coordination of actions on SALW control at the strategic level in South East Europe facilitated through the regional platform of SALW Commissions:</u> Regional Meetings of SALW Commissions bring together representatives of institutions from the Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination on small arms and light weapons control. The 21st Regional Meeting was held in Sarajevo on 10 July 2025 and was also attended by a delegation from Honduras as part of a study visit to the region. The 22nd Regional Meeting took place in Tirana on 11 December 2025. • <u>Operational cooperation on combatting illicit arms trafficking in South East and East Europe was facilitated through the South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN):</u> SEEFEN meetings gather representatives from investigative, prosecutorial, border police, customs authorities, and ballistic experts, including from the six Western Balkans jurisdictions, alongside international partners. The 22nd SEEFEN Regional Meeting was held in Skopje on 14-15 October 2025). <p><u>Evidence-based policymaking and harmonization of SALW control legislation with the EU Acquis.</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following SEESAC expert input / technical support, further progress was made in strengthening strategic and policy frameworks for SALW control in the region and ensuring their alignment with the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap 2025–2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serbia – the SALW Control Programme 2025-2030 and Action Plan 2025-2027 were adopted (December 2025). ○ Albania – the SALW Control Strategy 2025-2030 and Action Plan 2025-2027 were adopted (December 2025). ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – the adopted SALW Control Strategy 2025-2030 and Action Plan 2025-2027 were translated and published in the three official languages and English. ○ North Macedonia – the drafting of new SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan advanced through a four-day workshop (23-26 September 2025), resulting in the documents being submitted to the Government for adoption. ○ Montenegro – drafting of the new SALW Strategy 2026-2030 and Action Plan 2026-2028 was advanced through evaluation of the previous strategy, a Concept Note guiding the development of the new one, and a dedicated workshop to draft the strategy and action plan (Budva, 19-20 February 2026). • To support the harmonization of firearms, ammunition, and explosives legislation with EU framework, coordinated expert assistance across the region was provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina – A Workshop on Harmonization of Firearms and Ammunition Legislation with EU legal framework was held (18 March 2025) to support legislative alignment efforts. ○ Montenegro – Technical and expert assistance was provided in developing the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, including support during the public consultation process (Podgorica, 14 February 2025) and the drafting group session (3–5 March 2025). ○ North Macedonia – Expert support was provided for drafting the Law on Explosives (June 2025), as well as for developing a table of concordance assessing the alignment of North Macedonia’s weapons legislation with relevant EU standards. • A <u>Regional Workshop on the Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of SALW Control with the EU Acquis</u>, focusing on aligning jurisdictions’ firearms, explosives, and pyrotechnics legislation with EU standards was organised in cooperation with DG HOME and DG GROW (Brussels, 4-5 November 2025), bringing together representatives from the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.
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	<p><u>Monitoring trends of armed violence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the <u>Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP)</u> continued, with regular dissemination of <u>SEE Armed Violence Monitors</u>. • Based on the AVMP data, the following knowledge products were prepared, published and disseminated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An infographic on firearm incidents in South East Europe in 2024, highlighting key trends in armed violence in 2024. The corresponding 2025 infographic was developed and published in January 2026. • <u>Six Regional Quarterly Armed Violence Monitors</u> covering October–December 2024, January–March 2025, and April–June 2025, July–September and October–December 2025, providing a comprehensive overview of firearm-related incidents and trends. • <u>Three In Focus knowledge</u> products on weapons seizures, firearm incidents in domestic settings, and firearm incidents in criminal contexts in the Western Balkans (2019–2024). The corresponding series was also prepared for South East Europe. All products align with the first phase of the Roadmap implementation and review key trends in the region during this period. <p><u>Other knowledge products:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Regional Report on Arms Exports for 2022</u>, along with the <u>data analysis</u> covering 2018-2022, developed by SEESAC in partnership with the authorities in the Western Balkans, was published in January 2025. • The <u>Regional Report on Arms Exports for 2023</u>, together with a <u>leaflet</u> with data analysis covering the period 2019-2023, was developed and published in December 2025. <p><u>Support to SALW Commissions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Head of the SALW Commission of Montenegro completed the Communication and Media outreach coaching training (10–14 February 2025), strengthening his capacity for strategic and public communication, essential for the promotion of the SALW Commission’s work. • English language courses for members of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s SALW Coordination Board, including senior leadership, continued to improve regional cooperation and communication. The Head of the SALW Commission of Montenegro joined the English-language initiative in March 2026. <p>Support to capacity building of law enforcement and border authorities in preventing and countering illicit arms and explosives trafficking</p>
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	<p><u>Customs administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five workshops for the development of SALW-related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Customs Administrations were conducted in Serbia (1–4 April 2025), North Macedonia (6–9 May 2025), Montenegro (13–14 May 2025), Albania (2–5 June 2025) and Kosovo (7–10 October 2025). A workshop for the development of the SOPs was held for the representatives of the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (3-6 February 2026). • The developed SOPs for five Western Balkans jurisdictions were translated into local languages and sent to the Customs Authorities for their endorsement. Additionally, the SOPs developed for the Indirect Taxation authority of BiH were finalised and sent for translation. • Consequently, specialised trainings on the practical implementation of SOPs for the Customs Administration and Border Police were organised in North Macedonia (30 September-3 October 2025), Serbia (28-31 October 2025), Montenegro (4-7 November), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2-5 November), Kosovo (16-19 December 2025) and Albania (27-30 January 2026). <p><u>Criminal police:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional cooperation and exchange were facilitated through the Regional Meeting of Criminal Police Services (Tirana, 8–9 April 2025), bringing together representatives from law enforcement agencies from the Western Balkans, alongside international partners including EUROPOL and the European Firearms Experts Group (EFE). • Firearm detection training was delivered to the criminal police of Montenegro (23-27 February 2026). <p>Improvement of capacities for physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) through infrastructure security upgrades, surplus reduction and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 381 SALW were destroyed, with SEESAC support in Ferizaj/Uroševac in Kosovo (26 September 2025). • A <u>Regional Workshop on weapons and ammunition management</u> was held (Sarajevo, 14–15 April 2026), gathering defence and armed forces authorities from the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova.
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<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and interregional cooperation at the operational and strategic level was strengthened through regional meetings (SEEFEN and SALW Commissions) enhancing coordination and information-sharing. • Adoption of SALW Control Strategies and Action Plans in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. • Legislative harmonisation with the EU acquis on firearms, ammunition, and explosives advanced in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia through targeted expert assistance supporting the drafting and alignment of legislation. • Regional cooperation and a shared understanding of EU standards on firearms, explosives, and pyrotechnics were enhanced. • Understanding of the firearm-related threats and transparency increased through the publication of thematic and trends-related AVMP reports. • Institutional capacities of leadership and members of SALW Commissions in various aspects of arms control were further strengthened, improving strategic communication and regional cooperation. • The development of SOPs on firearms for customs administration in Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina completed and trainings conducted. • Regional operational cooperation and information sharing on new trends and threats strengthened. • The capacities of representatives of the Criminal Police of Montenegro to detect firearms were strengthened. • The risk of proliferation of firearms further reduced through the destruction of SALW in Kosovo. • Regional cooperation and information sharing for defence and armed forces in the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova enhanced.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise 23rd Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions. • Organise the 23rd SEEFEN meeting. • Organise the Regional meeting of border police. • Continue organising targeted training for SALW Commissions. • Provide technical and advisory support on strategy development. • Provide on-demand support for harmonisation of arms control legislation for relevant amendments regarding EU legislation on arms control and standardisation throughout the SEE region.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise the annual Regional Workshop on Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of SALW and Explosives Control with the EU Acquis in Brussels. • Track trends through the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform and regular publishing and dissemination of SEE Armed Violence Monitors. • Publish the Regional Report on Arms Exports for 2024.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support for SEESAC for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans and in support of disarmament and arms control activities in South-East and East Europe Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	19 December 2022 – 19 December 2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Western Balkans, Ukraine and Moldova institutions
DONOR	European Union - EU Council Decision 2022/2321
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 4,006,955
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans. • Strengthened interregional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on arms control. • Countering illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine through capacity assessments and technical assistance to the law-enforcement and border-police authorities.

<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy documents on arms control. • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. • Strengthen planning, coordination and monitoring functions of SALW Commissions to ensure effective policies on arms control. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially strengthen risk analysis systems, control, monitoring and prevention of diversion from legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. • Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)</p>	<p><u>I Coordination of the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>13th round</u> of the local Roadmap coordination meetings supported by SEESAC took place throughout June 2025. The <u>14th round</u> of these meetings was held in November-December 2025. • The <u>13th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting</u> was organized on 8-9 July 2025 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the <u>14th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting</u> took place on 9-10 December 2025 in Tirana, Albania. • The <u>13th regional monitoring reports</u> was developed and distributed ahead of the 13th regional Roadmap coordination meeting. An <u>infographic</u>, with key progress and concrete results, a <u>leaflet on donor and partner support</u> covering the first phase of the Roadmap and three knowledge products covering <u>weapon seizures</u>, <u>firearm incidents in the criminal context</u>, and <u>firearm incidents in the domestic setting</u> with data from AVMP were also distributed at the meeting. The <u>14th regional monitoring report</u> was developed and distributed before the 14th regional Roadmap coordination meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as a Secretariat, SEESAC facilitated the governance of the <u>Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund</u> and supported the <u>Steering Committee’s decision-making processes</u>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2025, an additional US\$ 1.86 million was contributed to the Fund by two donors, the Netherlands (\$1,739,780) and France (\$117,627), elevating the total value of contributions to the Trust Fund to US\$ 30.4 million. ○ With nine projects under active implementation, the Trust Fund’s Steering Committee allocated a further US\$ 3.35 million across the projects in 2025 to address priority needs across the jurisdictions, bringing the total value of ongoing initiatives to US\$ 15.4 million. ○ In May 2025, the Secretariat consolidated the Trust Fund’s <u>2024 Annual Report</u>. • Final review of the Roadmap implementation was conducted with direct support and engagement by the Western Balkans SALW Commissions. The preliminary key findings and recommendations from the review were presented during the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination meeting. The Final Review Report (FRR) was approved by the authorities, while the <u>Report with Consolidated Findings</u> was published in May 2026. • The software for the periodic reporting, collection and automatic export of data on the Key Performance Indicators of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap was upgraded to align with the revised KPIs template. <p><u>II Contribute to strengthened interregional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information-sharing on arms control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 16 to 19 June 2025, SEESAC conducted a technical mission to Honduras to facilitate peer learning, knowledge exchange, and the identification of adaptable practices based on the lessons learned and good practices established through the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. • Following this mission, a delegation from the Republic of Honduras participated in a Study Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2–11 July 2025. Besides, the delegation attended the 13th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting and 21st Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions. • SEESAC contributed to a Regional Workshop on implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Combating Arms Smuggling organised by GIZ on 6-7 August 2025, informing on best practices from the WB Roadmap implementation. • SEESAC also contributed to the Disarmament Toolkit 2025, an online course on peace and disarmament organised by UNRCPD on 10 September 2025 and delivered a presentation on the key developments in the Western Balkans, including the Roadmap
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	<p>and the regional evidence-based and gender-responsive approach to SALW Control. The course brought together more than 400 participants from all over the globe.</p> <p><u>IV Capacity development of law enforcement services including ballistic laboratories and customs services of the Western Balkans for countering illicit trafficking and possession of firearms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December 2025, needs assessment reports on the capacities of the Customs Administrations to counter illicit firearms trafficking were developed, translated, and endorsed by the Customs Services of Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania. • Specialised equipment was delivered to Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia to strengthen the capacities of the Unit for Detection and Dismantling of explosive devices.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of Roadmap implementation was facilitated through six regional coordination meetings, with representatives of SALW Commissions, international and regional organisations, and donors. • Coordination and monitoring of progress at the local level was strengthened through support to six rounds of local Roadmap coordination meetings. • Regular monitoring of progress was ensured through six monitoring reports. • The revised text of the Roadmap 2025-2030 was endorsed by the Western Balkans Ministers of Interior during the <u>EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs</u> on 28-29 October 2024, following an extensive consultation process facilitated by SEESAC. • With SEESAC’s technical support, the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund continued to ensure a coordinated donor- and jurisdiction-led approach to Roadmap implementation through a diverse portfolio of projects supporting progress across all jurisdictions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Between 2023 and 2025, nine new projects worth \$12.1 million were added to the Trust Fund portfolio, including eight projects approved following the 2023 open call and one regional project approved through direct solicitation modality in 2024. ○ Out of 23 projects active during this period, 14 were completed by August 2024, while nine remain ongoing through 2026. ○ In 2025, an additional \$3.35 million was allocated to ongoing projects to address priority needs under the revised Roadmap 2025–2030, with all nine projects subsequently revised in scope and timeframe in line with the Steering Committee’s decision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By December 2025, the Trust Fund had mobilized \$30.4 million in total contributions. Between 2023 and January 2026, the Steering Committee met 20 times, providing strategic guidance and oversight of the Trust Fund and supported projects. • The Roadmap and its regional approach have been recognised globally as a best practice, inspiring the adoption of two further regional roadmaps: one in the Caribbean in 2020 and, more recently, the Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap at the beginning of 2025. Additionally, in October 2025, the development of the Andean Community Roadmap to Prevent, Combat Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives was approved. • Interregional cooperation and sharing of good practices was strengthened through three comprehensive study visits by delegations from the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Honduras to the Western Balkans. Additionally, this was enabled through three side events focusing on various aspects on the margins of the Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4) on the UN Programme of Action (PoA) to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI), which took place from 17 - 28 June 2024 in New York.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL END OF 2026	The project under the framework of the EU Council Decision 2022/2321 was completed in December 2025.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support for Enhancing the Fight Against the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	1 September 2021 – 31 December 2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Kosovo
DONOR	European Union (Supported through IPA II Multi-Country Action programme 2020)

PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 4,996,576
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen strategic and operational capacity of the WB jurisdictions to conduct firearms investigations and exchange information within the region and with the EU on illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition. • To support the jurisdictions to better understand and increase the response to the factors fuelling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms-related data resulting in periodic regional FAE. • Strengthen tasking, coordination, and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. • Increase jurisdiction analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures, and transparency. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of FAE. • Increase awareness of dangers of celebratory shooting in particular as major contributors to firearm related death and injury.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increased number of seized firearms, ammunition, and explosives. • Ensure that legal measures are in place allowing legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of December 2025)</p>	<p>Support to Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) in the WB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Regional FFP Workshop was organised (Igman, 27–29 May 2025), bringing together FFP representatives from the Western Balkans to exchange best practices and discuss emerging threats. Back-to-back with the meeting, training on force field analysis was organised, led by the UK Crime Agency. • Specialised equipment for FFPs in Serbia, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro was procured and delivered. • Working Group meetings were held in Sarajevo on 21 May, 30 October and 13 November 2025 in support of drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of the Firearms Focal Point (FFP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following SEESAC’s expert review and input to the draft MoU, the document was submitted to the Council of Ministers for further comments and adoption. • A two-day <u>Regional Workshop on Pyrotechnics and Explosives for Civil Use</u> was held (Skopje, 16-17 September 2025), gathering representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Police Directorates from the Western Balkans, facilitating knowledge exchange on EU certification systems and safety standards. • A <u>Guide for Gender Analysis for Firearm Focal Points</u> was developed and distributed. • Attended the online meeting organised by EMPACT FIREARMS on 26 June 2025 to discuss the intelligence and operational phases of the EMPACT Joint Action Days (EMPACT JAD) 2025. <p>Capacities of authorities in Western Balkans to conduct crime scene investigations in accordance with relevant standards, EU good practices and guidelines strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Workshop on the Recovery of Electronic Evidence was organised (Skopje, 25–26 February 2025), strengthening investigators’ skills in digital forensics, evidence handling, and online investigations, and introducing SEESAC’s knowledge products on cyber investigations and electronic evidence. • Delivery of IT and forensic equipment to enhance the effectiveness of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units in Serbia, Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro to

	<p>improve firearm-related investigations, streamline workflows, and enable advanced analysis, and ensure reliable forensic outputs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study “3D-Printed Firearms, State of Play, Challenges, and Law Enforcement Approach”, which was produced in BCMS, Albanian, and Macedonian, was distributed to support regional knowledge dissemination. • “Drones, A Study on Applications, Regulations, and Security Implications in the Western Balkans”, was completed in 2025, providing information on the application, regulation and security implications of the use and threats of drones within the Western Balkans. <p>Knowledge of the factors fueling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork and data analysis for the regional Perception Survey related to factors fuelling demand on firearms were completed. Quantitative and qualitative findings from surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews were analysed. • The Study on Popular Culture and Social Listening related to firearms was finalised. • The research report was finalised, translated into local languages, and shared with authorities for review, with preliminary findings presented at the Regional SALW Commissions Meeting in July 2025. • The final regional study, <u>Understanding the Factors Fuelling the Demand for Firearms in the Western Balkans - Research Findings and Recommendations</u>, was published in December 2025, offering insights for policymakers, law enforcement institutions, civil society organisations, and international partners working to prevent and reduce firearm demand in the region, while seeking to understand and address the motivations for firearm acquisition. • The first regional study, <u>Armed Violence Victim Support in the Western Balkans – Brief Overview and Recommendations</u>, was also published in December 2025. Drawing on a legal review and empirical research conducted between May and September 2024 in six jurisdictions, this publication highlights that victim support, particularly in cases involving firearms, remains an under-researched area. • A mapping of global armed violence prevention best practices prepared by SEESAC was published. <p>Awareness and operational capacity to fight illicit and/or misuse of firearms raised among key beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>7th Regional Awareness Raising Task Force meeting</u> was held (Jahorina, 26-27 November 2025), gathering the representatives of Ministries of Interiors and police
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	<p>services from across the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova. As part of the meeting, a one-day training on using data in an awareness-raising campaign was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four trainings for Montenegro’s Ministry of Interior and police services on awareness-raising campaign planning, design and Implementation; crisis communication in situations involving firearms; public speaking; and social media use in SALW awareness raising were organised in April and June 2025. • Four trainings were organised for Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Ministry of Security, Ministries of Interior and police services on awareness-raising campaign planning, design and implementation, on crisis communication in situations involving firearms public speaking; and social media use in SALW awareness raising were organised in October and November 2025. • The preparations for the same capacity-building trainings for MoI and the police in North Macedonia were initiated and are planned for May and June 2026. • Preparations for the four-day capacity-building training on the use of social media for the MoIA and the police in Kosovo have been initiated and are scheduled for June and September 2026. • Results and recommendations of the Analysis of Media Reporting on Firearms Misuse in Male Gender-Based Violence Against Women in the Western Balkans were presented to the public (May 2025). • The <u>Guidelines for Communication in Crisis Situations Linked to Firearms</u> were finalised, translated into Macedonian, Albanian and English and published. • The Guidelines for Effective Utilization of Social Media in Awareness-Raising Efforts were finalised. • 1,563 pieces of SALW, and their parts and components were destroyed at the Jelšingrad smelter in Bosnia and Herzegovina (11 October 2025). <p>Capacities for mainstreaming gender into SALW control by institutions in Western Balkans strengthened and gender perspective integrated in institutional work at strategic, legal and operational level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five jurisdiction-level trainings on applying the Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Firearms Licensing and Risk Assessment in cases of domestic violence were successfully completed, for police officers from Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina (April–October 2025), preceded by online and in-person preparatory meetings with expert support. A training manual was developed and translated into local languages to support the delivery of training. In total, 69 police officers were trained.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Five jurisdiction-level trainings</u> on applying the Guidelines for the Prevention of Firearms Misuse in cases of domestic violence were successfully completed, for police officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Albania (April-October 2025), preceded by online and in-person preparatory meetings with expert support. A training manual was developed and translated into local languages to support training delivery. In total, 64 police officers were trained. • A Regional Workshop on <i>Gender and SALW for Women’s CSOs</i> was held in Tirana (1–2 July 2025), gathering 18 organisations from the Western Balkans. • An <u>online information session between GENSAC, SEESAC and 20 women’s organisation</u> from the Western Balkans was held on 6 November 2025. • The Gender Coach Programme, encompassing five sessions, was delivered to the Head of Montenegro’s SALW Commission. • The <u>Regional Analysis on Women in SALW Control</u> was published, as well as the <u>Regional Analysis on Institutional Response to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence</u>. • A <u>Workshop for Gender Equality Coordination Board</u> of the Ministry of Security, BiH: Sharing lessons learned and best practices on gender mainstreaming in SALW control in the Western Balkans was delivered on 18 November 2025. • A <u>Gender and SALW Workshop</u> for SALW Commission of Montenegro was organised on 4 December 2025. • <u>12 Steps Towards Sustainable Gender Mainstreaming in SALW Control - Lessons learned from the Western Balkans: What works?</u> was published at the end of December 2025.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information exchange and knowledge sharing among Firearms Focal Points in the region increased. • Significant advancement of specialised skills and analytical capabilities among FFP representatives through equipment and various trainings at regional and jurisdiction level, including: on Critical Thinking Skills and Analytical Capacities (ANACAPA), Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT), on Gender Analysis and Gender-Sensitive Data Collection, Analyst Notebook, on Horizon Scanning, High-Value Targets, Foresighting, and Force Field Analysis, among others and development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for FFPs. • Awareness of investigators and prosecutors of the types of support in firearms-related investigations that the FFPs and ballistic laboratories was increased through jurisdiction-level outreach sessions. • Progress was made in developing an acceptable FFP modality in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International coordination and operational preparation ensured through support to the successfully organised EMPACT Joint Action Days in 2022, 2023 and 2025. • Regional preparedness for future security risks and gender-responsive analysis were strengthened through comprehensive studies and knowledge products. • Significant improvement of the capacities of CSI Units through improved SOPs, enhanced institutional readiness for ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation, strengthened competencies in digital crime scene documentation, electronic evidence recovery, and chain-of-custody management of the CSI staff, study visits and provision of targeted, needs-based technical equipment. The effectiveness of CSI units in Serbia, Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Montenegro was enhanced through the delivery of IT and forensic equipment. • Ensuring the sustainability of the expertise developed in the CSI units through a regional training-of-trainers curriculum on advanced CSI topics. • Better understanding of Factors Fuelling Demand and Misuse of Firearms and Shaping Risk-Taking Behaviours in the Western Balkans, including risk and protective factors influencing the demand for firearms. • Improved knowledge on available Legal and Policy Frameworks and gaps for Victims' Support in the Western Balkans. • Awareness-raising approaches were diversified, and regional collaboration was strengthened through seven meetings of the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force (RAR Task Force). • Institutional capacities in various jurisdictions strengthened in areas such as a) Strategic campaign planning and effective implementation, b) Campaign monitoring and performance evaluation, c) Crisis communication in response to firearms-related incidents, d) Gender-based violence awareness campaigns linked to firearms, e) Leveraging social media for public awareness and managing partnerships with traditional media, and f) Public speaking. • Expansion of access to practical tools and strengthened evidence-based communication practices, crisis communication and the use of social media through the knowledge products developed. • Reinforced application of skills gained through regional trainings and newly developed knowledge products, through 18 capacity-building trainings (1 regional and 17 jurisdiction-level). • Improved awareness of journalists throughout the region on gender-based violence and the role of firearms, strengthened cooperation between media representatives, communication units of Mols and prosecution offices.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness of firearms misuse and related risks increased through one regional and six jurisdiction-level social media campaigns. • Guidelines for Assessing and Addressing Risks Related to Firearms Misuse in Domestic Violence and the Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Firearms License Approval developed. A regional pool of trainers on the implementation of the guidelines established ensuring sustainability of the capacities developed. A total of 133 police officers trained in 10 one-day trainings in Podgorica, Pristina, Skopje, Tirana and Sarajevo. • Improved knowledge and awareness on the role of women in SALW Control and the Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence through two regional analysis. • Improved cooperation and awareness of women’s organisations from the Western Balkans on arms control. • Strengthened institutional capacities for gender-responsive SALW control policymaking and improved interinstitutional cooperation of SALW Commissions.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project implementation was affected by a volatile global and regional context, including the continued war in Ukraine, which influenced the security environment and increased project costs due to rising prices. Frequent elections and political instability across several Western Balkan jurisdictions limited institutional continuity and, at times, delayed or constrained engagement of key counterparts, leading to the postponement or cancellation of some activities.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END 2025	The project supported through Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance III (IPA) was completed in December 2025.

ORGANISATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	SEESAC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support for enhancing the fight against the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the Western Balkans (Phase II) Ms. Bojana Balon, Head of SEESAC, E-mail: bojana.balon@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	11 January 2026 – 30 June 2029
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo

DONOR	European Union (Supported through Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance III (IPA))
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	6,999,737 EUR
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The overall objective of this project is to enhance the ability of the Western Balkans to fight against illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW, their ammunition and explosives, in line with the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardise and institutionalise data collection on firearms, by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms-related data, resulting in periodic regional FAE. • Strengthen tasking, coordination, and monitoring functions of the Firearms Focal Points, to ensure effective policies on Prevention, Mitigation, Reaction, and Suppression of firearms misuse, trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation. • Increase analytical capacities and institutionalise firearms data analysis. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure full implementation and monitoring of the legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade, and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. • Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures, and transparency. • Strengthen existing bilateral, regional, and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter the trafficking of firearms. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of FAE. • Increase awareness of dangers of celebratory shooting in particular as major contributors to firearm related death and injury. • Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities. <p>Goal 5:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increased number of seized firearms, ammunition, and explosives. • Ensure that legal measures are in place allowing legalisation and voluntary surrender of firearms.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<p>Support to Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) in the WB: From, SEESAC organised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Annual Regional Workshop for FFPs</u> from the Western Balkans was organised (Skopje, 10-12 March 2026) to exchange best practices and discuss emerging threats. The event also included a two-day Advanced Analysis Training aimed at strengthening participants’ operational capacity to address illicit firearms trafficking and misuse through intelligence-led approaches. • A <u>Regional Workshop on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT)</u> was held (Skopje, 10–11 February 2026) for the representatives of law enforcement agencies and ministries of interior from the Western Balkans. • Support was provided to cyber patrol officers during the intelligence phase ahead of EMPACT Joint Action Days 2026 (February–March 2026). <p>Capacities of authorities in Western Balkans to conduct crime scene investigations in accordance with relevant standards, EU good practices and guidelines strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <u>Regional Meeting of Crime Scene Investigation</u> gathered officers from across the region in Montenegro, on 21–22 April 2026, to strengthen forensic practice and advance cooperation in response to firearms-related crime. • A <u>study visit to an Accredited Laboratory for Explosive Examination in Budapest</u> was organised on 14 February 2026 for representatives of the Ministries of Interior from Podgorica and Belgrade, with practical insight into certified explosive testing procedures and international safety standards. • SEESAC participated in the kick-off meeting of OA1.2 EMPACT Firearms and Explosives (29-30 April 2026) related to the establishment of the Firearms Focal Points and the standardisation of data collection on firearms at the EU level. <p>Knowledge of the factors fuelling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the findings of the regional research <i>“Understanding the Factors Fuelling the Demand for Firearms in the Western Balkans,”</i> the development of the jurisdiction-level reports was ongoing based on survey and interview data to inform evidence-based

	<p>polycymaking. The template for jurisdiction-level reports was drafted, and a pilot report for Montenegro was drafted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research findings were further presented at a meeting organised by UNIDIR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia (8-12 February 2026) and at Fellowship training in Turin, Italy (20-23 April 2026). <p>Awareness and operational capacity to fight illicit and/or misuse of firearms raised among key beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation of four capacity-building trainings in North Macedonia (to be held in May and June 2026) was initiated, focusing on campaign planning, crisis communication, public appearance, and social media use for awareness-raising. • The organisation of two capacity-building trainings on social media in Kosovo was initiated in the first quarter of 2026, including follow-up online support, in response to a request from MoIA and police representatives. • A plan of activities to support the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns in Kosovo in 2026 was developed, following a request from MoIA, with implementation expected to begin in the second quarter of 2026. <p>Capacities for mainstreaming gender into SALW control by institutions in Western Balkans strengthened and gender perspective integrated in institutional work at strategic, legal and operational level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Meeting of Trainers on the application of guidelines on firearms misuse in domestic violence and gender-responsive firearm licensing was held (Herceg Novi, 21–22 April 2026). • The development of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Armed Violence was initiated, targeting high-risk groups through a desk review of relevant programmes. • SEESAC representative participated in a regional workshop on integrating arms control into Jurisdiction Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 (Ljubljana, 10–11 February 2026), contributing as a speaker and presenting research findings. • Mapping of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans was conducted to support the organisation of a regional CSO workshop planned for late 2026.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information exchange and knowledge sharing among Firearms Focal Points in the region increased. • Specialised skills and analytical capabilities among FFP representatives advanced through training on the use of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) for firearms-related investigations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational cooperation and intelligence-sharing were reinforced through support to cyber patrol officers during the intelligence phase preceding the 2026 EMPACT Joint Action Days. • The sharing of information and knowledge among CSI officers, as well as cooperation and preparedness for improved forensic practices in the region increased. • Capacities and knowledge related to the safe examination and handling of explosives in line with the international standards of the CSI units were enhanced through a study visit. • Awareness of the factors influencing demand for firearms was increased. • Capacities of MoI and police representatives to design and implement awareness-raising campaigns through the initiation of targeted trainings in North Macedonia and Kosovo. • Institutional readiness for strategic communication and public outreach was enhanced through the development of tailored training programmes and follow-up support. • The rollout of awareness-raising activities was supported in Kosovo through the development of a dedicated activity plan in cooperation with local counterparts. • Network of 26 regional trainers on gender-responsive firearms control maintained and information sharing reinforced. • Integration of gender perspectives into SALW control frameworks was promoted through participation in regional policy discussions on UNSCR 1325 and the dissemination of research findings.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2026</p>	<p>Support to Firearms Focal Points (FFPs) in the Western Balkans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the Regional Threat Assessment on firearms trafficking. • Deliver targeted jurisdiction-level trainings to further enhance FFP institutional capacities. • Continue providing support to EMPACT activities focusing on JAD. • Provide technical assistance and expertise to FFPs. • Organise jurisdiction-level FFP outreach meetings to Prosecutors and ballistic (CSI). <p>Capacities of authorities in Western Balkans to conduct crime scene investigations in accordance with relevant standards, EU good practices and guidelines strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver regional and jurisdiction-level trainings in support of ISO accreditation of CSI units • Provide technical and advisory support, including equipment.

	<p>Knowledge of the factors fuelling demand and misuse of firearms in the Western Balkans enhanced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and publish six jurisdiction-level reports and one regional report on factors fueling demand for Firearms among young people. <p>Awareness and operational capacity to fight illicit and/or misuse of firearms raised among key beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force meeting • Conduct capacity building trainings in North Macedonia and Kosovo • Guidelines for Effective Utilisation of Social Media in Awareness-Raising Efforts <p>Capacities for mainstreaming gender into SALW control by institutions in Western Balkans strengthened and gender perspective integrated in institutional work at strategic, legal and operational level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for strengthening institutional response to firearms misuse in gender-based and domestic violence. • Organise a Regional Workshop with HR departments to support the implementation of the recommendations of the analysis of women’s participation in SALW control • Organise Regional Workshop for CSOs on key contexts, trends and challenges in SALW control.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP Albania
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I) Ms. Entela Lako, E-mail: entela.lako@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	5 December 2023 – 31 October 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Albanian State Police
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,555,490
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A

PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To provide assistance and equipment to the Border Police, Albanian Institute of Scientific Police, and the CSI unit of the Kukes Police Directorate. This Project also focuses to enhance police exchange and cooperation on SALW matters between Albania and Kosovo and is implementing joint activities with UNDP in Kosovo.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the procured specialized equipment to the Albanian State Police, consisting of two drones for day and night use, 60 min flight independence, 2 portable scanners, 5 medium range thermal cameras, 10 long-range day binocular, 5 medium-range night binoculars, and for 5 portable document scanners. Coupled with this, the project provided training on the use of drones and hand-held scanners for 14 police officers of the Border Police. • A three-day study visit for officials from Albania to the Paris Forensic Laboratory, to acquire knowledge and best practices relating to the exchange of ballistic data through the EVOFINDER system was conducted at the end of May 2025. • In cooperation with the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C) in Montenegro, the project implemented a four–day training in June 2025 for 15 Albanian State Police officers and 3 prosecutors. • The Project supported the participation of two experts in the ENFSI meeting in October 2025, which was held in the Hague, The Netherlands. • Five 4x4 vehicles for green border patrolling were delivered in September 2025. • Design and disseminate advanced training on countering FAE smuggling tailored to frontline staff • Provision of SALW-related investigation equipment for the Albanian FPI • Joint police operations between Albania and Kosovo at the BCPs and GBLs in increasing bilateral cooperation in countering IAT and increasing firearms confiscations.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic experts were supported by UNDP to learn from good practice in advancing and standardizing FAE investigations through specialized events provided by the

	<p>European Network of the Forensic Scientific Institutes (ENFSI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technical capacities of the border police for green border patrolling were enhanced through the UNDP-procured specialized equipment for this purpose. • The capacities of law enforcement and prosecution authorities to detect and counter online firearms trafficking were strengthened through specialized dark web training, enhancing their ability to identify, investigate and respond to firearms-related criminal activity in the online environment and its links to transnational crime. • Ballistic information-sharing between Albania and Kosovo was further explored through a technical study visit to the Paris Forensic Laboratory, which supported the assessment of EVOFINDER-based ballistic data exchange feasibility and informed next steps for cross-border forensic cooperation. • Operational cooperation between Albania and Kosovo was strengthened through joint police operations at border crossing points and green-border locations, contributing to enhanced bilateral coordination in countering illicit arms trafficking and supporting increased firearms detection and confiscation. • Frontline border and migration officers in seven border-crossing counties of Albania improved their capacity to detect and respond to firearms, ammunition and explosives smuggling through advanced, tailor-made training on weapon conversion and explosives, strengthening operational preparedness at key border and migration-control points. • Operational cooperation between Albania and Kosovo was strengthened through joint police operations at border crossing points and green-border locations, contributing to enhanced bilateral coordination in countering illicit arms trafficking and supporting increased firearms detection and confiscation.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVOFINDER Ballistic Data Exchange: Assessment, Planning, and Implementation (Purchase of DMZ server for data sharing) • Design and deployment of new Weapons Management System (SIMA) software at the Albanian State Police. • Enhance FFP analytical and investigation capacities • Provision of firearms-related investigation equipment for the Albanian FPI and Units of Tirana and Kukes (Equipment/Refurbishment for Tirana CSI vehicle)

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Law Enforcement Agencies' Development in Small Arms and Light Weapon's Control - LEAD Mr. Senad Zlatar, Project Manager, E-mail: senad.zlatar@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	6 December 2023 – 31 December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	BiH SALW CB, Indirect Taxation Authority, Border Police BiH, State Investigation and Protection Agency, BiH Prosecutor Office and prosecutor offices at entity and cantonal level, relevant police bodies at entity and cantonal level, police academies, associations of women police officials, as well as NGOs.
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,855,035
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The Project LEAD aims to enhance the capacity and engagement of relevant institutions and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as strengthen inter-agency and cross-border collaboration to advance the implementation of the SALW Control Strategy and the SALW Control Roadmap.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/align SALW strategies and/or the Action Plans with the Roadmap • Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking. • Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy documents on arms control. • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE • Develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy, reinforce outreach and reach messaging multipliers. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen public trust in security institutions and develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy and outreach. • Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE. • Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion through improved safety and security of the stockpiles and disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized handover ceremony for 26 contraband detectors/density meters to 14 police agencies in February 2025. • Organized handover ceremony for 1 contraband detector/density meter at FBiH Mol's Police Academy in October 2025, including appropriate training for 5 FBiH Mol's Police Academy staff. • Procured and installed ballistic lab equipment (workbenches, toolsets, ventilation systems) for two ballistic laboratories Bosnia and Herzegovina (located in Federation Police Directorate in Sarajevo and RS Mol in Banja Luka). Additional specialized ballistics equipment (e.g. kinetic bullet puller, ammunition reloading press, mannequin, etc.), handed over to both ballistic labs in November 2025. • Formal handover of 55 crime scene investigation (CSI) kits was conducted on 27 February 2026 to 14 police agencies (SIPA, FPD, RS Mol, ten cantonal Mols and Brčko District Police), with participation of 28 representatives. • Developed and operationalized the digital application for management of legally owned weapons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since the establishment of the Working Group (22 members from 10 cantonal Mols and FPD), meetings were held on 10–11 February 2026 in Čapljina and 5 March 2026 (online), including presentation of a demo version. The final, sixth Working Group meeting was held on 14–15 April 2026 (25 participants, 4 women), during which final adjustments were

	<p>agreed and next steps defined. One installation has already been completed in the reporting period in Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the AEA expert meeting in Belgrade in May 2025, ballistic experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and North Macedonia held working meetings from 3 to 6 March 2026 in Niš and Skopje, focusing on standards, methodologies, and laboratory practices, contributing to alignment of forensic procedures and strengthening professional networks. • The third cross-border exercise (first with Serbia) was held in Konjic in November 2025 (34 participants, 5 women), testing and identifying gaps in border procedures at joint border crossings between two jurisdictions. The fourth exercise (second with Serbia) was held from 24 to 26 February 2026 in Belgrade with over 40 participants from police, customs, and prosecutor's offices, combining theoretical sessions and practical simulations. The fifth exercise was conducted from 31 March to 2 April 2026 in Mostar with Montenegro police and customs authorities (third with Montenegro with 38 participants, of which 4 women), focusing again on procedures at joint border crossings through SALW trafficking scenarios. • Finalized and advanced integration of Guidelines for police cadets on illegal SALW and explosives, following validation and integration of the Guidelines with police academies in Sarajevo and Banja Luka in 2025, another meeting was held on 3 February 2026 with the Agency for Education and Professional Training in Mostar. • Development of the SALW Investigation Guidebook continued through a structured consultative process. Following 2025 consultations with 38 police officials from cantonal Mols, FPD, SIPA, and Brčko District, additional meetings (32 participants) were held in 2026 with RS Mol to consolidate recommendations and finalize the text. • A consultative meeting was held on 14 January 2026 with Tuzla Canton Mol for the development of a rulebook for standardized SALW destruction procedures and sustainable solutions for surplus weapons. • Supported coordination among key institutions involved in SALW control, including organization of the BiH SALW Coordination Board meetings February 2025 and February 2026 in Sarajevo to discuss legislative harmonization, project implementation, and alignment with strategic priorities. • Supported activities under the Integrated Border Management Strategy, including a consultative meeting held on 16 April 2026 organized by the BiH MoS with UNDP support, focusing on strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and addressing illicit SALW trafficking, including discussions on a new MoU between Border Police BiH and Indirect Taxation Authority.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced the Gender Equality Seal (GES) process of the BiH Ministry of Security. MoS was awarded a silver medal, making it the 1st security institution in the world to be awarded GES. • Under the Low Value Grant Agreement (LVGA) modality, 8 CSO grants were successfully finalized by Q4 2025, with all knowledge products disseminated to the MPTF Secretariat. These projects reached over 5,000 community members and youth to raise awareness on illicit SALW risks and gender-based violence, notably through the theatre play "Echo of Silence" (which reached an additional 500 students and 20 teachers in Cazin and Bihać in April 2026) and the educational short film "The Game" (Igra), which won first place at a global UNDP competition in March 2026. • In close coordination with UNDP Serbia, the Project Team organized another meeting of policewomen's associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia from 29 September to 1 October 2025 in Neum. • Supported participation of women police associations in the European Network of Policewomen conference in Belgrade in November 2025, and initiation of preparations in 2026 for a study visit to an EU Member State. • From 21 to 23 April 2026, the LEAD Project Manager participated in a regional CSI expert meeting in Pržno, Montenegro, contributing to planning of future project activities, including needs assessment for training of CSI personnel in AEA-related incidents.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 contraband detectors delivered to 14 police agencies with 46 participants (6 women) - 20 police officers trained. 1 contraband detector delivered to FBiH MoI Police Academy in Sarajevo along with appropriate training for 5 trainers. • Handover of 55 CSI kits to 14 police agencies completed • 2 ballistic laboratories (Sarajevo & Banja Luka) equipped with ventilation systems, workbenches, toolsets and specialized ballistics equipment. • Developed the legal-firearms application and first installation of the application already completed in Zenica-Doboj Canton. • Strengthened cross border cooperation between Serbia and Montenegro (2025–2026), involving police, customs and prosecutors. • Increased information sharing among AEA experts from BiH and Serbia. • 2 additional knowledge products produced: (i) SALW Investigation Guidebook drafted and is subject to further consultations and (iii) Guidelines for Police Cadets validated and incorporated into FBiH Police Academy's, RS Police High School's and BiH Agency for Education and Training's curricula.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 validation meetings with police academies/educational institutions (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar) on Guidelines for Police Cadets on SALW-related crimes, with integration into relevant curricula at all academies. • Preliminary award of the Silver Medal to the MoS making in 1st security institution in the world having been awarded GES. • 8 CSO grants implemented, resulting among others in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2 creative knowledge products released: film “The Game” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcYKVNvz4Kg) and theatre play “Echo of Silence” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1WmgNMdlwQ)” with more than 5,500 youth and community members reached through school screenings and public events related to the movie and a theater play. ◦ Support to Youth Theatre Tuzla enabled the initiation of a theatre tour with the play “Echo of Silence” in Una-Sana Canton • Awareness-raising efforts enhanced as the film “The Game” (Igra) won first place at a global UNDP Digital Awards competition. • Regional cooperation among ballistic laboratories enhanced through involvement of ballistic experts from BiH with their counterparts from Serbia and North Macedonia at expert meetings in Serbia and North Macedonia, enabling knowledge exchange and alignment of forensic practices.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 was marked by significant political turbulence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including within the security sector, which at times affected cooperation among law enforcement agencies (including the prosecutors’ office). • Given the complex constitutional and security structure of the jurisdiction, main challenge in the implementation of the project is the large number of project partners, including police agencies within the jurisdiction, establishing coordination with all partners, and scheduling activities. While the Project Team has thus far successfully maintained coordination among all partners, the prevailing political situation earlier in the reporting period led to delays in the implementation of certain activities within the planned timeframe. • In addition, following consultations with UNDP Serbia colleagues, cross-border joint exercises involving stakeholders from Serbia were initially postponed, subsequently rescheduled, and successfully implemented during Q4 2025 and Q1 2026. • A delay was also recorded during the reporting period due to internal administrative procedures related to the engagement of an expert for procurement of forensic ballistic laboratory equipment. Consequently, the onboarding process has taken

	longer than initially anticipated, which may impact the overall timeline of the procurement process.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of archive boxes for BiH Prosecutor’s Office • Procurement of explosive and narcotics detection kits for ITA • Engagement of an expert and subsequent procurement of specialized ballistics equipment for entity ballistic labs • Full installation of an application for legal weapons in FBiH (10 cantonal Mols and and FPD) • Operational coordination between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro police and customs authorities was strengthened through the fourth joint cross-border exercise, conducted with the participation of prosecutors from both jurisdictions, which helped identify procedural gaps at joint border crossings and inform discussions on the potential development of standardized SOPs for countering SALW trafficking. • Organize working group meetings regarding a rulebook for standardized SALW destruction procedures and produce a framework Rulebook for all jurisdictions • Final meeting with police agencies for the presentation of the finalized Guidebook for police officers handling SALW-related cases • Meetings involving Border Police BiH and Indirect Taxation Authority focused on discussion on potential development of standard operating procedures (SOP) for BP and ITA • Final meeting of the Working Group on the Rulebook for SALW destruction procedures with senior police management representatives • Organization of Study Visit for Women Police Associations from BiH (and Serbia - as a joint activity with UNDP CO Serbia) to one of the EU Member States • Support participation of associations of women police officials from BiH at the international conference in Belgrade

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP Kosovo
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Integrated Institutional Approach and Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation to SALW Control (Phase I)

	Ms. Marta K. Gazideda, Governance and Peacebuilding Portfolio Manager, E-mail: marta.gazideda@undp.org and Mr. Mentor Cakolli, Project Manager, E-mail: mentor.cakolli@undp.org
PROJECT DURATION	3 November 2023 – 31 December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Internal Affairs/SALW Commission, Police
DONOR	Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,600,990
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the Integrated Institutional Approach and Community Engagement in Kosovo to effectively and efficiently implement SALW, Ammunition and Explosives Control. • Strengthen the Cross-border Cooperation in the field of SALW Control.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/align SALW strategies and/or the Action Plans with the Roadmap. • Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking. • Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy documents on arms control. • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. • Strengthen and systematize the collection and reporting of criminal justice data. • Ensure that every weapon recovered or seized is traced (domestically and/or internationally). <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially strengthen risk analysis systems, control, monitoring and prevention of diversion from legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition and explosives. • Strengthen public trust in security institutions and develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy and outreach. • Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE. • Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs. • Increase public awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting. • Systematically use legalization of firearms and voluntary surrender of WAE as means for reducing illicit possession and misuse. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular and secure destruction of confiscated and collected SALW, ammunition and explosives or disposed of in another transparent manner. • Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The E-Learning Platform for the first time fully developed, fully operational and already in use by the Kosovo Police; • The awareness raising campaign “Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun” continues to be implemented successfully; • Training for 20 police officers and representatives of community safety forums in RPD Gjakovë/Đakovica successfully completed regarding practical learning and the exchange of knowledge on community-focused security measures. on SALW Control. • Handed over 25 handheld light weight metal detectors to the Kosovo Police enabling more thorough and efficient security checks, helping to prevent illicit trafficking, and contributing to safer and more controlled border management.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tool Scan technology procured and the training in utilizing the equipment was completed for 10 forensic experts (7 men and 3 women). • The latest versions of iBase and Analyst’s Notebook (ANB) installed in Firearms Focal Point (FFP) by advancing further analytical capacities. • Organized two-day intensive training to enhance the skills and knowledge of 20 first responders and investigators (all men) in tackling cybercrime. The sessions focused on building practical expertise in collecting, handling, and preserving electronic evidence, while also introducing investigative techniques and tools needed to effectively address crimes committed in digital spaces. • The coordination and arrangement process of the exchange visit was completed successfully. • Development of Explosive Management Module and training sessions for MoIA and Legal Entities officials was completed successfully. • Joint police operation was completed successfully, and gap analysis was conducted.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The E-Learning Platform fully developed, operational and already in use by the Kosovo Police; • The awareness raising campaign “Celebrate with Heart, Not Your Gun” continues to be implemented successfully; • Training for police officers in RPD Gjakovë/Đakovica successfully trained. • Handed over 25 handheld light weight metal detectors to the Kosovo Police. • Technical specifications of the day binoculars developed jointly with the beneficiary, and the procurement process was advertised. • The latest versions of iBase and Analyst’s Notebook (ANB) are installed in FFP by advancing further analytical capacities. • The Tool Scan technology procured and the training in utilizing the equipment was completed for 10 forensic experts (7 men and 3 women). • Procurement of protective measures for explosives inspectors process initiated. • RFP procurement process for developing the Explosive Management System initiated. • Procurement process of tools for establishing the maintenance workshop within Kosovo Police initiated. • Procurement of protective measures for explosives inspectors process initiated.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general elections and challenges related to political and institutional distraction, heightened tensions, policy uncertainty, and security threats. • Fragile safety and security situation and priority of engagement of personnel from the MoIA / Kosovo Police side.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed adoption of the Law on Firearms and the Law on Civil Use of Explosives.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized training in cybercrime and darknet investigations. • Provide specialized licenses and tools for investigating cybercrime. • Support the MoIA explosives division with tools and respective protective tools/PPE for inspection. • Specialized training in identifying and dealing with homemade explosives.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP Montenegro
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Advancing the Forensic Capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for processing Firearms and Explosives-related Crimes</p> <p>Mr. Gordan Ivanovic, E-mail: gordan.ivanovic@undp.org</p>
PROJECT DURATION	November 2023 – December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Police Directorate/Forensic Center
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,391,105
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project aims at improving the crime scene investigation and laboratory forensic capacities of the Police Directorate of Montenegro for providing forensic evidence and intelligence necessary for investigating and judicial processing of the trafficking of firearms, their ammunition, explosives, and precursors, as well as other FAE-related criminal offences, including the sexual and gender-based violence. The focus will be on standardizing work processes in accordance with the policy and recommendations of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) and preparing for accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 international standards.</p>

<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and systematize the collection and reporting of criminal justice data. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced training for 3D laser scanning crime scene documenting • Advanced training for aerial photography crime scene documenting • Delivery of the remaining equipment for Arson and Explosives Lab and Guns Shot residues lab • Development of 5 SOPs for the CSI Unit: • SOP/WI on CSI documentation by utilizing the 3D laser scanning technique. • SOP/WI on CSI documentation by utilizing aerial photography. • SOP/WI on forensic evidence recovery by utilizing the Crime Lite Auto device. • SOP/WI on searching, locating, collecting, and further handling of firearms and other ballistic evidence. • SOP/WI on protecting (packing) evidentiary items at the scene, marking them following the unique identity principle, and establishing and maintaining the custody chain • Training on selected CSI topics based on the SOPs- advanced training on 3D scanner, quadcopter and Crime Lite Auto device. • Protocol developed on interviewing techniques with GBV cases. • Training for internal auditors. • Gunsmith workshop and shooting range refurbished. • Nine ENFSI workshops attended by 13 experts from the Forensic Center. • Two study visits organized for the experts from the Forensic Center to Bratislava and Ljubljana Forensic Center. • Delivered advanced training on applying ISO/IEC 17020 to crime scene investigation to 14 Montenegrin CSI officers within a project framework by forensic consultant. • Finalized initial planning phase with the Police Directorate (PD) for organizing and delivering activities to further improve the capacities of the PD CSI in the Regional Centers. • Ballistic OCF procedures and technical documentation were reviewed and upgraded, resulting in revised standardized documentation, a new EVOFINDER SOP, and a

	<p>bilingual glossary to improve traceability, system compatibility, and international cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and validation of a new method by contracted expertise for the examination of fuse correctness with respect to burning velocity and spark transfer including relevant Standard Operation Procedure in close cooperation with Arson and Explosives lab. • Finalized assessment of training needs analysis, curriculum development, on new CSI techniques based on purchased specialized CSI kits containing means for finding and recovering latent, biological, micro-traces, and packaging ballistic traces. Including, analyzing the current conditions and identifying adequate solutions for providing dedicated space for forensic evidence manipulation and storage within Regional SCI centers. • Organized training on the use of interviewing procedures protocols for 17 CSI officers (all men) from CSI units across Montenegro. • Finalized additional works on the shooting range (ventilation and flooring). • Completed the validation of the method for testing gunshot residue (GSR) particles using SEM/EDS through consultation services. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), including operational instructions for the SEM Thermo Fisher AXIA Chem and the EDS Oxford Instruments Ultim Max 65 mm², as well as the SOP for replacing cathodes on the SEM microscope, was also finalized.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing and installing new equipment, refurbishing premises, developing and implementing standard operating procedures and new forensic methods, training professionals, and performing other competence-raising activities collectively enhanced the Police Directorate's forensic institutional capabilities, meaning the ability to provide a wider range of credible evidence needed for prosecuting WAE-related crimes. • Standardization of work processes and result presentation forms facilitates the cross-border exchange of forensic evidence and intelligence, boosting international cooperation in combating WAE-enabled criminality. • 7 SOPs have been finalized and adopted by beneficiary for the Crime Scene Investigation Unit of the Forensic Center • Equipment was purchased for the CSI Unit, Ballistics, Arson and Explosives, Chemical Laboratory, and Gunshot Residue (GSR) Laboratory, and professionals from the Forensic Center were trained in its use • Gunsmith workshop and additional works on shooting range finalized • 8 trainings organized with 34 experts trained

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 ENFSI workshops attend by 13 experts from the Forensic Center • Four knowledge products developed
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher workload of professionals partially limits their ability to participate in project activities. • Experienced delays in some trainings • Small pool of experts
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of training needs, curriculum development on new CSI techniques based on the purchased specialized CSI kits to be finalized. • Analysis of the current conditions finalized, and adequate solutions designed for providing dedicated space for forensic evidence manipulation and storage within regional CSI centers. • Adaptation/procurement of office containers for the CSI units based on the needs assessment. • Procurement of equipment for the regional CSI centers finalized. • Training courses for CSI professionals from regional centers organized based on the needs assessment. • Five SOPs and two guidebooks for the CSI Unit developed. • Participation of professionals from the Forensic Center in the ENFSI workshops. • Peer exchange visit for FC professionals.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP North Macedonia
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Strengthening the Capacities of the Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation System to Improve Criminal Justice Response to SALW</p> <p>Slagjana Srbinoska, Programme Analyst / Head of Democratic Governance Unit, E-mail: slagjana.srbinoska@undp.org and Ivana Petrovska, Project Manager, E-mail: ivana.petrovska@undp.org</p>
PROJECT DURATION	January 2024 – December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund

PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,499,180
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The objective of the project is to modernize the forensic and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) system in the Republic of North Macedonia, with the aim of improving the quality of investigation and enabling a more efficient criminal justice response to SALW.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and systematize the collection and reporting of criminal justice data. • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. • Ensure that every weapon recovered or seized is traced (domestically and/or internationally). • Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE. • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition and explosives. • Strengthen public trust in security institutions and develop sustainable partnerships to strengthen advocacy and outreach. • Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs. • Increase public awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting.

<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)</p>	<p>Output 1.1 - Ballistic facilities and operations of Mol’s Forensics Department are upgraded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of the indoor shooting range in the Forensic Department of the Ministry of Interior through the installation of video surveillance, lighting and an alarm system. • Preparation of two documents for the safe use of the indoor shooting range: “Elaborate: General Design” and “General Instructions for the Use of the Shooting Range” by international and jurisdiction-level ballistic experts. The final documents, now accepted by the Ministry, will serve as the basis for developing the Ministry’s Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). • Organization of study visits in Niš and Skopje in March 2026 related to ballistics including five (5) ballistic experts from North Macedonia alongside with their colleagues from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Discussions focused on laboratory standards, quality assurance procedures and practical aspects of ballistic testing, providing an opportunity for experts to exchange experiences and approaches applied in their institutions. • Purchase of equipment: Firearm storage (soshki) was installed in the Forensic Unit department following design that corresponds to the available space and the safety requirements. The firearm storage was prepared in correspondence to the Mol needs and the standards for safety working environment for the ballistic experts. <p>Output 1.2 - Analytical, technical and investigative capacities of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units are enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the technical documentation for the preparation of CSI training and simulation facility, focused on civil engineering, architecture as well as electrical, thermal, water supply and sewage system. All designs received positive technical review. • Specialized equipment designed to enhance CSI capabilities procured in January 2025 including specialized CSI Kits for field work, photo cameras for documenting crime scenes, as well as computers and hardware equipment. • A three-day workshop on implementing a gender-sensitive approach for 19 CSI officers (15M and 4F) held in Berovo, promoting victim-centered approaches in firearm-related cases. • Practical Guidelines for Forensic Techniques in Gender-Based Violence cases developed for the CSI Department, offering practical guidance on integrating a victim-centered approach in evidence collection.
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	<p>Output 1.3 - SALW-related data collection and management as well as measures to prevent SALW misuse are further advanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgraded the Information Police System (IRDAM) in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Based on detailed needs assessment and business analysis, the improved system now includes a specialized module for handling domestic violence cases with an accent on cases involving firearms, alongside enhanced functionalities that strengthen data collection, analysis, and evidence-based responses. The new version of IRDAM was deployed in a production environment in February 2026, initially monitored in the biggest police station in the jurisdiction Gazi Baba, to ensure a smooth and controlled transition. • Completion of the procurement procedure for strengthening existing digital solutions and developing additional complementary e-services within the Weapons Registration and Management System (WRMS). • Developed Terms of Reference for preparation of Awareness Raising campaign related to use of pyrotechnics, as well as established the working group from the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the preparation and implementation of the campaign.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<p>Output 1.1 - Ballistic facilities and operations of Mol's Forensics Department are upgraded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly completed range is set to become a premier facility for the ballistic examination of firearms and ammunition, enabling more reliable ballistic examinations and enhancing the criminal justice response. • The capacities of the Forensic Unit significantly strengthened through the upgrading and equipping of the indoor shooting range, enabling forensic staff to conduct essential test shootings for examining ballistic evidence and verifying the functionality of firearms and ammunition. • The technical guidelines for safe and secure use of the shooting range serve as the foundation for formal Standard Operating Procedures and ensure compliance with international standards. • The technical expertise of the ballistic experts from North Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was improved, supporting laboratory accreditation efforts under ISO 17025. The exchanges between experts have contributed to reinforced institutional capacity, improved cross-border collaboration, and created conditions for more effective and reliable ballistic investigations in firearms-related cases • The firearm storage facilities in the Forensic Unit, ensure a safer and more secure working environment for ballistic experts.

	<p>Output 1.2 - Analytical, technical and investigative capacities of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units are enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSI system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs strengthened through delivery of advanced CSI kits, IT equipment and cameras to enhance evidence collection. Improved connectivity through IT equipment donations and specialized software adaptation. • Professional standards advanced through a gender-sensitive workshop for CSI officers, resulting in official Guidelines for Forensic Techniques in cases of gender-based violence, collectively embedding victim-centered practices. • The completion and positive technical review of civil engineering, architectural, and systems designs for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility established a solid foundation for modern infrastructure that will support continuous learning and professional development of forensic staff. <p>Output 1.3 - SALW-related data collection and management as well as measures to prevent SALW misuse are further advanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upgraded Information Police System (IRDAM) constitutes a significant investment in public safety and operational efficiency, utilizing digitalization to strengthen intelligence-led policing. These upgrades extend beyond the development of a single module, as they significantly enhance the overall system by incorporating an alert mechanism for known firearm license holders and by strengthening the collection of gender related statistics, particularly regarding domestic violence and its correlation with firearms.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project required adjustment of the timeline for opening of the shooting range within the Ministry of Internal Affairs following a tragic event that occurred in Kočani in March 2025. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior requested a formal usage guideline for the shooting range which reinforced the institutional ownership and the sustainability of the intervention. • Securing suitable premises for the CSI Training and Simulation Facility, along with subsequent building changes, caused delays, increased technical workload, and created budget shortfalls, requiring intensified coordination and donor engagement to explore mitigation measures. • The project implementation was affected by prolonged approvals, changes in Ministry coordinators, procurement challenges, and limited personnel availability during local

	elections in Autumn 2025, though these issues were managed through close collaboration, revised procedures, and extended testing timelines.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up on the regional exchanges, including training sessions and exchanges of ballistic experts from North Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. • Procurement of equipment and identification of further needs of the Forensic Unit related to ballistics. • Renovation of the CSI training centre facilities • Training of CSI officers within the CSI training centre facilities • Upgrade of the Weapons Registration and Management System (WRMS), including enhanced SALW traceability functionalities and the development of new SALW-related e-services. • Awareness raising campaign on responsible use of pyrotechnics.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP Serbia
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Advancing the Capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the SALW Control-Related Field (Phase III)</p> <p>Mr. Zarko Petrovic, Resilient Development Programme Specialist, E-mail: zarko.petrovic@undp.org and Mr. Igor Srbljanovic, Project Manager, E-mail: igor.srbljanovic@undp.org</p>
PROJECT DURATION	November 2023 - December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Mol Serbia, General Police Directorate, Criminal Investigation Directorate, Forensic Center, and Administrative Police Directorate
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,862,540
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A

PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Interior in the entire investigative cycle to improve investigations to achieve regular convictions. The General Police Directorate will be better equipped, trained, and modernized.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. • Strengthen and systematize the collection and reporting of criminal justice data. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. • Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<p>Output 1: Improved overall CSI and evidence-management capacities of the Serbian MoI/NFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected company delivered two FARO licenses for 3D scanners and on-site 3-day trainings for 18 participants from CSI units divided into four groups. • 2 CNA Fuming Chambers and Discover Imaging System for the Forensic Center delivered and 2-day training after the delivery of equipment organized. • Prepared recommendations for the premises for preliminary processing and storing of forensic evidence which should be adapted. • Preparation of the ILAC G19 curriculum has commenced. The curricula were approved by the NFC. A two-day training was organized in October 2025 for 37 participants (4 women and 33 men) from Serbia and the region, including participants from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia. Of the total participants, 31 were from Serbia and 6 from the region. <p>Output 2: Improved overall NFC capacities for ballistic examinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upgrade of three ballistic microscopes in Belgrade and Niš was successfully completed. The upgrades of two comparative microscopes used within the Regional Forensic Centre's (RFC) Užice and Novi Sad have been completed, five in total in all four ballistic labs around Serbia. Proficiency test has been processed and evaluation is ongoing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application for Accreditation is expected by the end of April, beginning of May 2026. • The assessment with the recommendations about future accreditation of the regional ballistic labs as well as the assessment of the necessary equipment for the regional labs were prepared. • Ballistic Mentor Specialist prepared training for the Action plan for the accreditation of the ballistic labs. Online meetings with regional ballistic labs have been organized regularly. • A two-day preparatory meeting for the accreditation process was organized for all ballistic experts from the regional and central ballistic laboratories, as well as for the ballistic mentor specialist, NFC quality control representatives, and top management participants, in April 2026. • In October second 2-day meeting with prosecutors' office (PO) for 22 participants (6 women, 16 men), 8 from Mol and 14 from PO was organized. • Two bilateral meetings between Serbian and BiH ballistic experts were organized to discuss the SALW project, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation. The second event organized in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. Third regional information-sharing meetings in Niš and Skopje, gathering ballistic experts from Serbia (three ballistic experts), Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia organized in March 2026. <p>Output 3: Improved overall NFC capacities for explosion examinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of NFC capacities for explosion examinations was conducted, and the technical specification of the necessary equipment was approved by the AEA unit. The equipment was delivered to the NFC. • Second bilateral meeting between AEA experts from Serbia and BiH was organized in May 2025 in Belgrade, for 15 (3 women, 12 men) participants from both jurisdictions. • The second two-day workshop with the Prosecutor's Office (PO) to strengthen inter-agency collaboration was organized in October 2025 for 22 participants (6 women and 16 men), including 8 participants from the Ministry of Interior (Mol) and 14 from the Prosecutor's Office. • Preparations for the expert visit planned with the Netherlands Forensic Institute were held from 11 to 14 March 2026. The visit was attended by three experts from the Ministry of Interior of Serbia (1 woman and 2 men), as well as the UNDP Project Manager. • 2 training for forensic technicians in the area of post-blast were organized, in Zlatibor, in April 2025 for 24 participants (3 women, 21 men), and in May, in Vršac - 25 participants (4 women, 21 men), totalling 49 participants.
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	<p>Output 4: Improved capacities of the NFC chemical laboratory for examinations of traces of explosives and of gunshot residues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upgrade of two SEM microscopes in the laboratory for GSR was successfully completed. Following the preparatory activities for the validation of the GSR method, the expert visit from the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in Wiesbaden was conducted in November 2025. The expert assessed institutional readiness for the accreditation process (GSR analysis), reviewed proficiency testing results from both regular and case-study PT trials and provided recommendations for strengthening the quality control system. • One Proficiency test has been processed. • Application for Accreditation is expected by the end of April, beginning of May 2026 (NFC will apply as a Center for two ballistic methods, one GSR and other forensic method, gathered, centralized). • The UNDP project team supported preparatory activities for the visit of the designated expert from the SNPS – Laboratoire de Police Scientifique de Lyon (France), while coordination with French counterparts, including participation in an online meeting, was maintained by the National Forensic Center. • The expert visit was conducted in November 2025, focusing on the assessment of needs and the provision of recommendations for the introduction of new analytical methods for explosives. <p>Output 5: Improved validity and visibility of achieved NFC capacities in line with recognized standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One NFC representative participated in the ENFSI Scene of Crime Working Group Meeting held in The Hague, Netherlands, from 23–25 September 2025 and two additional NFC representatives participated in the 31st ENFSI EWG Firearms/GSR Meeting, in The Hague in October 2025. • UNDP facilitated the participation of five Forensic Center (NFC) representatives (5 men) in a specialized Shooting Reconstruction Forensic Training Course, held in Landsberg, Germany, from 23 to 27 March 2026. • The UNDP project team organized a Project Board coordination meeting in November 2025 to review progress in project implementation and discuss key developments and upcoming priorities. <p>Output 6: Improved safety and capacities of Police Administration Directorate in handling of firearms</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2025, Firearms identification training held in Sokobanja for 37 participants (26 women; 11 men) and in Vršac for 38 participants (28 women; 10 men), totalling 75 participants. For two years, 160 participants passed FI training from all 27 police directorates. • UNDP organized a study visit to Ljubljana from 31 March to 3 April 2026 for representatives of the MoI (5 women and 2 men), as a follow up activity and preparation regarding the Law on Weapons and Ammunition and public debate. • Preparation after the assessment of the necessary equipment for PAD processed (Metal lockers, wooden storage and bullet traps). Procurement process completed and contract with selected company signed. The selected company successfully delivered 130 metal lockers, 20 wooden storage crates, and 5 bullet catchers for the AAD units of the MoI.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSI and evidence-management capacities of the Serbian MoI/NFC were strengthened through the delivery of two FARO licences for 3D scanners, two CNA Fuming Chambers, one Discover Imaging System, related training for CSI personnel, and recommendations for adapting premises for preliminary processing and storage of forensic evidence. • Forensic training and methodological capacity were enhanced, including through the approval of the ILAC G19 curriculum by the NFC and delivery of training for 37 participants from Serbia and the region, as well as specialized training in 3D scanning, post-blast forensic examination, shooting reconstruction and firearms identification. • Ballistic examination capacities were strengthened across Serbia, with five ballistic microscopes upgraded across the central laboratories in Belgrade and Niš and the Regional Forensic Centres in Užice and Novi Sad. • Accreditation readiness of the NFC and regional ballistic laboratories was advanced through processed ballistic and GSR proficiency tests, accreditation-related assessments and recommendations, an Action Plan for ballistic laboratory accreditation, preparatory meetings, mentoring support and regular coordination with regional ballistic laboratories. • Explosion examination and GSR capacities were strengthened through assessment of NFC explosion examination capacities, approval of technical specifications by the AEA unit, delivery of required equipment, upgrade of two SEM microscopes in the GSR laboratory, and expert support from Germany's BKA, France's SNPS Lyon and the Netherlands Forensic Institute. • Regional professional cooperation and information exchange were enhanced through bilateral and regional exchanges involving ballistic experts from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, as well as bilateral cooperation between Serbian and Bosnia and Herzegovina explosion examination experts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-institutional cooperation between the Mol/NFC and the Prosecutor's Office was strengthened through dedicated meetings and workshops involving ballistic and explosion examination experts, prosecutors and Mol representatives. • Institutional visibility and alignment with recognized forensic standards were supported through NFC participation in ENFSI working group meetings and specialized shooting reconstruction training in Germany. • Firearms handling, storage and legislative-preparation capacities were improved, including through firearms identification training reaching 160 participants from all 27 police directorates over two years, a study visit to Ljubljana linked to preparations on the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, and delivery of 130 metal lockers, 20 wooden storage crates and 5 bullet catchers to AAD units of the Mol.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete delivery of equipment for adapted premises in Belgrade, Nis and Užice. • Continuation of development and completing of LIMS database by the end of 2026. • Organize ISO/IEC 17025:2017 training, before NFC apply for the accreditation (May 2026). • Procure equipment for laboratory. • Provide Proficiency tests if necessary for NFC. • Complete adaptations in Novi Sad laboratory and equip the premises. • Organize 2 days meeting with Prosecutors office experts. • Organize one more meeting in BiH for Serbian and MKD colleagues. • Organize 2 days meeting with Prosecutors office experts. • NFC will apply for accreditation of the GSR method in May 2026. • Attendance of NFC representative at the ENFI Annual Meeting 2026 Conference.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	UNDP Serbia
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Reduce Risk – Increase Safety III Ms. Maja Brankovic Djundic, Gender Equality Portfolio Manager, maja.djundic@undp.org

PROJECT DURATION	31 October 2023 – 31 December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	<p><u>Implementing partners:</u> Ministry of Interior, National Institute for Public Health “Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut”,</p> <p><u>Beneficiaries:</u> Ministry of Interior, Network of Women in the Police of the Republic of Serbia, professionals within healthcare system working with victims of domestic violence, persons at risk of committing firearms related domestic violence, survivors of mass shootings, “Journalists against Violence against Women” group, specialized CSOs dedicated to preventing violence against women and increasing their safety, specialized CSOs dedicated to suicide prevention, persons who are or may become victims of firearms misuse, either in the context of gender-based violence or in the context of suicide by firearms.</p>
DONOR	Roadmap Multi- Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD 1,026,135
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	N/A
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The objective of the project is to bridge the gaps identified under specific Goals 2 and 4 of the Roadmap, with a specific focus on reducing the risk of firearms misuse for violence and suicide in Serbia, while strengthening the role of women in SALW control policies, fostering collaboration and knowledge of relevant stakeholders, and enhancing community response to firearms-related crises and trauma with the goal of restoring safety and trust in institutions. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to meaningful integration of gender perspective into the SALW control policies.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking. • Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition and explosives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE. • Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed evidence-based recommendations for efficient prevention and lowering risks for domestic/partner-relationship violence, with special focus on cases involving firearms misuse. These recommendations have informed the Ministry of Justice working group drafting amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. • Conducted mapping of needs and resources for survivors of mass shootings and frontline responders to improve response to crises (including firearms-related incidents and mass shootings), provide effective support in overcoming trauma and support victims. • 127 state officials, experts and women police officers (91 women and 36 men) from 18 jurisdictions gathered through high-level regional conference strengthening visibility, leadership and influence of women in policing. • 26 policewomen strengthened bilateral cooperation, through third meeting of policewomen networks in Serbia and BiH, bringing together participants to exchange experiences and enhance skills in gender-responsive policing, and strengthen regional cooperation on gender equality and SALW-related issues. • Developed training of trainers program for health professionals, training curriculum and supporting materials tailored to the needs and challenges health professionals face in everyday practice. • Initiated development of standardized, evidence-based tool for healthcare professionals to assess risks when issuing firearm licenses and for general practice firearm misuse risk prevention. • 261 police officers (194 men and 67 women) from 41 municipalities trained through seven one-day workshops for risk assessment in domestic violence cases. • 4 local women organizations increased capacities to enhance community safety and support women at risk from firearms-enabled violence. Grant-supported organizations addressed violence against women and firearms misuse by handling 436 helpline calls (including from rural areas), training 203 women on risks and reporting, networking 102 local professionals, and distributing over 1,500 awareness materials to the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened violence prevention efforts through amplification of the Mol community outreach on preventing domestic violence (including firearms misuse), increasing public awareness through widely distributed, victim-centered communication materials. • 58 police psychologists (53 women and 5 men) exchanged experience on suicide prevention strategies in the police, through expert meeting gathering participants from Mol Department of Psychological Activities and police psychologists from the region (Slovenia, Hungary, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina). • 11 army veterans (all men) trained to better understand risks associated with access to firearms and equipping them with knowledge and skills in responding to situations involving suicidal behavior, leveraging the power of peer connection. • Strengthened national trauma response capacity through sustained, expert-led supervision of 31 mental health professionals previously trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children, adolescents, and families affected by mass shootings. • 11 women journalists were trained and started conducting an analysis of media reports on the May 2023 mass shootings, based on previously developed methodology and dominant narratives overview.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved availability and quality of evidence for policymaking through completed comprehensive dataset framework on firearms misuse in domestic violence, enabling the Mol to collect, analyze and present sex- and age-disaggregated data more systematically. • Enhanced legal and policy frameworks for preventing firearms misuse in domestic violence which directly informed amendments to the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. • Contribution to improved knowledge base on crisis-response capacities and coordination, achieved through comprehensive mapping of crisis-response resources and incorporation of lessons learned from the May 2023 incidents. • Ensured inputs for strengthening victim and witness protection systems from a rapid assessment identifying systemic gaps and opportunities for more effective, survivor-centered support in firearm-related cases. • Increased leadership and engagement of 233 women in the security sector (including the Network of Women in the Police and European Network of Policewomen) contributed to strengthened gender-responsive approaches to preventing (firearms-enabled) domestic violence and improving small arms control policies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among 70 policewomen from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina contributing to strengthened capacities for gender-responsive policing and cross-border collaboration. • Improved ability of 215 healthcare and legal professionals from 67 municipalities to identify and respond to firearms misuse risks and thus ensure early detection of violence and increased victim safety. • Strengthened frontline response capacities of 261 police officers from over 40 municipalities for more effective risk assessment and coordinated interventions in domestic violence cases involving firearms. • Established preventive mechanisms within firearm licensing procedures through the development and initiated piloting of a standardized risk assessment tool for healthcare professionals, enabling earlier identification of misuse risks. • Enhanced community-level protection and support mechanisms were achieved through support to 4 civil society organizations. • Improved resilience and mental health support within policing institutions was achieved through training of 31 Ministry of Interior representatives, while an additional 31 Mol police psychologists strengthened their skills and practices through regional knowledge exchange with colleagues and specialized NGOs. • Sustained institutional capacity to address professional trauma was ensured by training of 51 Ministry of Interior representatives from 29 police departments to recognize harmful consequences of professional stress and be aware of support sources. • Enhanced suicide prevention efforts among high-risk groups were achieved through development of a targeted training curriculum and training of 11 army veterans, improving their ability to recognize and respond to firearm-related suicide risks. • Strengthened capacity for post-crisis recovery and community healing resulted from project-enabled expert support to identify and apply international best practices in the aftermath of the May 2023 mass shootings. • Improved quality and sustainability of trauma-informed care was ensured through strengthened competencies and continuous supervision of 31 mental health professionals providing support to victims and families affected by mass shootings. • Established foundations for ethical and prevention-oriented media reporting through continued analysis of approximately 8,000 media articles and related visual content on mass shooting events. • Increased public awareness on domestic violence and firearms misuse was reflected in the publication of 50 media reports addressing the consequences of such violence.
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<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social unrest in Serbia has continued throughout the year. In terms of project implementation, the initial risk of unavailability of target beneficiaries from the police, stemming from their deployment to secure numerous protests throughout the jurisdiction, while institutional uncertainty and strained relations between authorities and civil society limited cooperation with some project partners. Despite the challenges, the project team adopted an adaptive management approach, maintaining close coordination with institutional stakeholders and civil society partners. Flexible scheduling, revised activity timelines, and no-cost extensions for selected community initiatives enabled the continuation of key activities, including cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia. By the end of 2025, although the socio-political environment remained tense, the project implementation continued with steady progress toward planned outputs.
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing of findings and recommendations of the mapping of needs and resources for survivors of mass shootings and frontline responders. • Continued expert support to MoI efforts regarding improved gender- and age-disaggregated data collection and presentation practices within existing administrative systems. • Implementation of capacity building/advocacy activities of the Network of Women in the Police of Serbia, including support to the annual Conference of the Network. • Support to implementation of activities fostering networking of women police officers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, including study visit to EU-based network of women police officers. • Implementation of Training of Trainers (ToT) on firearms misuse prevention for violence for healthcare system representatives and support to training activities within healthcare institutions based on the ToT. • Completion of testing and finalization of assessment tool and guide to support medical evaluations within the healthcare system with a view of preventing firearms misuse. • Support to Implementation of MoI prevention and awareness raising activities related to domestic violence. • Support to training of healthcare professionals for suicide prevention and (firearms-enabled) suicide awareness activities. • Follow-up training and supervision to mental health professionals providing support to persons affected by mass shooting incidents. • Completion and presentation of analysis of media reporting on mass shootings and SALW and regional networking of women journalists on trauma-informed reporting.

NOTE: No new inputs have been received for the ongoing project below, and the information provided covers the period until end 2024.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	British Embassy in Tirana ²¹
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	UK assistance to the Albanian Police and Justice System in the Field of Forensic Science Mr. Richard BONE, Program Manager, E-mail: Richard.bone@fcdo.gov.uk
PROJECT DURATION	2023-2026 with possibility of extension
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Albanian State Police, Albanian State Police Scientific Police Institute, General Prosecutor's Office
DONOR	United Kingdom
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	Approximately GBP 6,000,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	The project is focused on providing technical assistance and does not plan any significant capital spend on equipment, etc. While there is a need for better equipment in the Forensic Lab as well as improved CSI facilities, before this is provided, the structural and institutional obstacles that currently hinder raising standards need to be addressed (see below).
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albanian forensic evidence collection and analysis meet and comply with the accreditation criteria ISO 17025 and allow for membership of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). Albanian police and criminal justice professionals comply with the accreditation criteria ISO 17020 for Crime Scene Investigation (CSI). Albania builds and continues to populate a National DNA Database within an appropriate legal framework and to ISO standards. A legal and regulatory framework for the development and use of forensic and biometric evidence embedded within the Albanian Government and Justice system.

²¹ The inputs presented in this document are as received in November 2024 from the British Embassy in Tirana ahead of the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting as no new inputs have been received.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capacity for the identification of individuals through biometrics. Improved Albanian criminal record management, criminal conviction, arrest and deportation data are more accurately attributed to the correct individual. <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in the technical capabilities of Albanian Police forensics and CSI with services adequately resourced and staffed by appropriately trained experts who have secured, demonstrated and maintained the necessary competence for their role. Improved understanding and use of forensic evidence by justice professionals who demonstrate awareness of the varied weight of evidence provided by forensics; better management of crime scenes with fewer unnecessary submissions. A regulatory framework that enables the use and sustainment of forensic science widely in the Criminal Justice System. An increased capacity for the identification of individuals through biometrics and improved and integrated record-keeping within Albania.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2: Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations.</p> <p>Goal 3: Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units.</p>
KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (From the beginning of project – end October 2024)	<p>Assessment of CSI capacity and recommendations for future CSI development (these have been accepted by the ASP).</p> <p>Assessment of the requirements to develop a Forensic Strategy.</p> <p>Commencement of the implementation of a Quality Management system within the Laboratory.</p> <p>Commencement of competency testing for CSI staff.</p> <p>Provision of a DNA reference line laboratory.</p>
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<p>The ASP has received considerable training and equipment provision for many years; despite this, forensic and CSI standards remain low. The reasons for this are structural and cannot be solved by training alone- it requires a change of culture and internal processes. The project is focusing on changing these.</p> <p>The new Police Law, passed in July 2024, removes the right of the police to take DNA from arrested persons other than in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code. The practical outcome of this is that the Albanian DNA Database will not develop further.</p>

ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2024	Assisting the ASP in developing the sub-legal act on the ‘Functioning, Management and Administration of the National Laboratory’, which is required to be developed by the new Police law. Facilitating the work of the CSI development working groups. Assist the laboratory staff in implementing a Quality Management System and implementing the corrective actions required to raise standards to facilitate ISO accreditation.
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PARTIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	<i>Norwegian People’s Aid Bosnia and Herzegovina (NPA BiH)</i>
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Law Enforcement Agencies SALW Marking, Labelling and Registration Anders Steen Nielsen, Acting Country Director, AndNie815@npaid.org
PROJECT DURATION	2022 – ongoing
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Law Enforcement Agencies in BiH
DONOR	NMFA/NORAD, UNSCAR
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 450,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	1,800,000 (for all remaining law enforcement agencies in BiH)
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Implementation of Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) stockpile management procedures and processes; training for and oversight of SALW marking, labelling and registration activities; SALW management digitalization; inclusion of women in arms violence reduction, conflict prevention and recovery efforts.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 2:

	Fully integrate gender and age concerns in arms control policies and prioritize meaningful participation of women in policymaking. Goal 5: Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALW marking and registration systems have been fully implemented in Brčko District, Posavina Canton, and Canton 10. Implementation at the federal entity level with the Federal Police Administration in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is now nearing completion, and preparations are fully in place for rollout in West Herzegovina Canton.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The marking, registration, and labeling software was deployed across several law enforcement agencies, and the project has been successfully implemented. Federal-level implementation is now nearing completion, with preparations underway for rollout in West Herzegovina Canton. These efforts have enabled sustainable digital traceability of firearms, strengthened institutional control, and ensured long-term system use through trained police personnel.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring sufficient funding is still the most critical to scale implementation and achieve full completion across Bosnia and Herzegovina.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion of project by finalizing implementation in West Herzegovina Canton or by ending activities on 31 July 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Presence in Albania
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Assisting the Authorities of Albania to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Xhenis Ballço, Project Officer OSCE PiA; E-mail: Xhenis.Ballco@osce.org
PROJECT DURATION	August 2021 – November 2028
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministries, institutions and citizens of Albania
DONOR	EU, France, Germany

PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 2,903,377
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 913,346
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project aims to support the efforts of the Mol and other Albanian authorities in obtaining necessary technical assistance, expertise, resources and equipment to strengthen their preventive, investigative, and management capabilities in SALW control and non-proliferation. Such an approach will continue in the process of addressing the following three priority areas as identified by the Mol and ASP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the establishment of a comprehensive legislative framework for the deactivation of firearms and its due implementation; • Build the capacities of the ASP in strengthening their canine (K9) capabilities in detecting SALW, ammunition, and explosives; • Increase the capacities of Albanian authorities in raising public awareness on the dangers of misuse and proliferation of SALW.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production and trade as well as counter illegal trade of arms, ammunition, dual-use goods and military equipment in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically decrease surplus stockpile of SALW, ammunition and explosives through destruction in an environmentally benign manner and through other means.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized the third amendment of the Project, which envisages an adjustment of the overall budget and the inclusion of additional activities, in alignment with the three priority intervention areas, as requested by the Government of Albania; • Completed the Construction works and Supervision services for the retrofitting of the existing building to become the Deactivation Centre of SALW;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized exchange visit on deactivation and certification processes for four (4 men) representatives of Albanian State Police to the Banc s'Épreuve de Saint-Etienne, France, from 25 to 28 May 2025, to exchange expertise and best practices on deactivation and certification processes; • A two-day evaluation visit of Banc s'Épreuve de Saint-Etienne representatives was held in Tirana, Albania. The assessment report on legal and practical framework on deactivation was received. • The Training Manual “Training and Operational Use of Service Dogs of the State police of Albania” was printed for the beneficiaries' perusal and donated through a ceremony in October 2025; • Supported the donation of one K9 (service dog) from the Republic of France in June 2025, thereby enabling the continuation of the training activities and the subsequent certification process; • Pursuant to the 6-week SAMBI training of one K9 handler in Gramat, the project, organized in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the French Gendarmerie, a one-week program for the certification discipline of 2 K9 teams from Albania and from Kosovo. The event took place at the Academy on Public Safety in Vushtrri; • Supported the integration of an additional female officer within the ASP K9 units in June 2025, who has undergone training at the ASP Canine Training Institute, thereby advancing gender inclusion within this specialized field; • Completed the works for retrofitting of the four dog building kennels and refurbishing of two ambulatory rooms at the veterinary clinic in the frame of infrastructural upgrades at ASP Canine Training Institute; • In April 2025, presentation of the awareness-raising strategy and its action plan to the research students at the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana. Organized by the partner organization, the Women's Center for Development and Culture Albania, this briefing informed the students about strategies and perspectives on security issues; • Finalized the handbook “Beyond the Headlines: A Journalist's Guide to Reporting on Security, SALW, and Gender-Based Violence in Albania” for the usage of the recipients and media outlets. The document is publicly accessible at the OSCE website: https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/c/592592.pdf and is currently being printed and distributed;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the developed handbook, the project has organized a dedicated training for 10 (ten) journalists (4 women and 6 men) from Albanian media outlets in June 2025, aimed at enhancing the quality of reporting on security and SALW-related incidents with particular attention to gender-based violence issues. The interactive workshop, supported by a local expert and featuring contributions from civil society, SEESAC, and international media professionals, fostered the exchange of best practices and promoted principles of responsible and gender issues reporting.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the deactivation regulatory framework by the Banc d’Epreuve (BNE). • Capacities for the deactivation of firearms significantly improved through the provision of equipment infrastructure and capacity building. • The developed Training Manual on deactivation processes is included in the Security Academy curricula ensure the sustainability of the process and that the personnel are fully trained. • The infrastructure refurbishment and procurement of equipment and tools for the SALW Deactivation Center are completed. • Training Manual “Training and Operational Use of Service Dogs of the State Police” developed. • K9 capacities, including those of the Canine Training Institute, significantly improved following dedicated assessments, development of standard operating procedures, and study visits. • SAMBI training certification for K9 units completed. • Organization of 2 K9 regional workshops and one K9 regional competition in Tirana. • Two vans specialized for the transportation of service dogs and handlers were procured and donated to ASP for K9 deployment and training needs. • Specialized K9 equipment for K9 units’ deployment and training procured and handed over. • Successfully facilitated the inclusion of the first female canine handler to receive the training in 2024, marking a significant milestone in promoting gender mainstreaming in this field. • Assessment of the needs, requirements, benefits, and potential impact of an amnesty/voluntary surrender of illicit SALW, ammunition, and explosives in Albania completed and handed over to the beneficiary. • Supported awareness raising and developed a Communication Strategy for the project beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted the pre-assessment of the campaign with a small-scale audience online to measure the perception/attitudes of the Albanian population on SALW, set the baseline of the campaign, and test the campaign messaging. • Implementation of two awareness-raising campaigns supported, both focused on combating gender-based violence related to SALW and youth engagement. • Better integration of CSOs in awareness planning and implementation ensured. • Strengthened co-operation and engagement with local communities in planning awareness-raising campaigns and outreach activities. • Expanded outreach and awareness of school students, teachers, youth, and women. • Ensured better understanding of the general population's perception/attitudes towards firearms. • Strengthened the capacities of the media in reporting on firearms-related incidents, as well as cooperation and exchange of experience among Albanian and Serbian journalists covering security and SALW issues. • Finalized the monitoring of the current state of media reporting and an assessment of the capacity-building needs for the journalists covering SALW and gender-based violence related to SALW affairs and shared with SEESAC.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring infrastructure work mobilization and efficiency of the contractor to complete the works by the end of 2025. • Increased prices for goods and services on local and international markets, and rising inflation. • Elections and changes in the leadership of MoI and ASP. • Limited funds within limited and restricted timelines of implementation. • Staff turnover in the team.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of the retrofitted Deactivation Centre for SALW facility by the beneficiary. • Provision of the installation services of the deactivation equipment in the finalized construction site and the delivery of the relevant training on their usage. • After the assessment report of the legal and practical framework on Deactivation follow the training of 6 practitioners to be delivered by the BNE. • Endorsement by the beneficiary of the retrofitted four-dog building Kennels and the refurbished two ambulatory rooms of the Veterinary Clinic. • Start the implementation of the regional Frontex training for the K9 units. • Distribution of the printed handbook “Beyond the Headlines: A Journalist’s Guide to Reporting on Security, SALW, and Gender-Based Violence in Albania” to journalists, beneficiaries, and other relevant stakeholders.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Mission to BiH
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Addressing security and safety risks of illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Andrei Sarban, Project Manager, Department for Security Co-operation (DSC) E-mail: andrei.sarban@osce.org
PROJECT DURATION	1 November 2020 - 30 September 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) including entity and cantonal ministries of interior (Mols)/police agencies; SALW Control Co-ordination Board; BiH Ministry of Security (MoS); Prosecutors' offices, courts and penitentiary services; population of BiH; OSCE participating States from SEE.
DONOR	Austria (in-kind contribution), Czech Republic, EU, Germany, France, Lichtenstein, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye and the United States of America
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 5,321,352
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 1,084,075
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To support BiH in mitigating security and safety risks related to illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as counter trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and education among the general population, on the danger of WAE.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs. • Increase public awareness of the dangers of celebratory shooting. • Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal possession of firearms. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED 1 January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided continued support to the BiH SALW Control Coordination Board (CCB) in strengthening institutional outreach and awareness-raising on SALW control across Bosnia and Herzegovina, in close cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Security (MoS), by facilitating coordination meetings with relevant institutions across all BiH jurisdictions. • Organized and delivered an advanced, hands-on training for 20 Intruder Detection System (IDS) operators in Široki Brijeg, utilizing practical exercises and real-life scenarios to maximize learning outcomes and operational readiness. • Held the fourth in a series of awareness-raising meetings on the challenges associated with SALW, in support of the CCB. • Supported targeted advocacy efforts aimed at harmonizing firearms legislation across BiH jurisdictions, contributing to the successful approval of the Firearms Law in Tuzla Canton, Posavina Canton, and Canton 10. • Provided continuous technical and policy support to the ongoing process of harmonizing firearms legislation across BiH jurisdictions in line with EU and international standards. • Co-organized and supported the participation of beneficiaries in regional K9 training (Modules 2, 3, 4, 5, and Professional Test) held in Skopje, contributing to the regional standardization of dog handler certification processes. Initiation of the new regional K9 training (Modules 2 and 3) in Skopje. • In cooperation with the Secretariat and the French Gendarmerie, co-organized a specialized K9 training in Gramat, France, for two beneficiaries from BiH law enforcement agencies (LEAs), enhancing their operational capabilities. • Supported the organization and successful completion of the Regional K9 Training on Deployment in Challenging Environments, held in Skopje and Ohrid, North Macedonia.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed infrastructure upgrades at 6 designated Police K9 units across selected BiH locations, significantly improving their operational conditions and efficiency. • Organized and supported specialized training sessions on the application of the Guidelines for the Use of K9 Capacity in Detecting SALW, including an Exhibition and Demonstration of Skills by BiH K9 Units, conducted in cooperation with Guardia Civil K9 experts from Spain. • Initiated procurement of priority K9 equipment for the four law enforcement agencies in BiH (K9 Units from Canton Sarajevo Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, and Central Bosnia Canton Mol). • Contracted the accredited SALW Proof House, Banc d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne (BNE), to deliver expertise, conduct assessments, and provide certified training on the proper deactivation procedures for SALW within BiH law enforcement agencies. • Organized an assessment visit to BiH for three representatives from the accredited French Proof House BNE, enabling technical evaluation and capacity exchange. • Completed and inaugurated the Verification Centre for Deactivated Firearms at the Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior (Mol) and RS Mol Banja Luka (Zalužani), marking a key milestone in BiH's SALW deactivation and control infrastructure development. • Convened a preparatory meeting between BiH deactivation professionals and representatives of the BNE to advance procedures and technical standards. • Procured and installed two state-of-the-art laser marking machines and organized corresponding training sessions for personnel responsible for marking deactivated firearms, ensuring full compliance with the OSCE and EU marking standards. • Supported deactivation experts from the BNE, France, to organize a 4-day workshop in Banja Luka from 16 to 19 February 2026 for BiH's LEAs firearms deactivators and experts in firearms deactivation. • Enabled two-week training and certification for 2 firearms deactivators from BiH LEAs in BNE, France. • Enabled a one-week training and certification for 4 police experts on firearms deactivation from BiH LEAs at the BNE, France.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works at 10 SALW storage facilities, Banja Luka, Bihać, Doboј, Foča, Konjic, Livno, Lukavac, Prijedor, Zenica, and Zvornik, were completed, followed by the delivery and installation of furniture and technical equipment. Intruder Detection System (IDS) equipment was installed at each site. • The Training Manual and Programme on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) were finalized and disseminated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered basic and advanced SALW PSSM training to 22 representatives from Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's). • The Guidelines for the Enhancement of Inter-Institutional Communication and Outreach on SALW in BiH, along with a Methodology for Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Outreach, were finalized, officially launched, and distributed to Project beneficiaries. • Trained 25 Public Relations and Communication Officers from beneficiary LEAs and the SALW CCB, who have begun implementing the Guidelines and Framework in their reporting on SALW-related incidents. • In partnership with the Policewomen's Network Association and the RS MoI Women's Network (RS WPON), the Project facilitated inter-institutional dialogue and conducted a gender analysis on the misuse of SALW, supporting and funding working group (WG) meetings and providing essential IT equipment. • Delivered specialized training for 20 participants on the misuse of firearms in cases of gender-based and domestic violence and supported a WG meeting involving 2 women police officers' associations and the BiH Ministry of Security's Gender Coordination Board. • Supported advocacy for the harmonization of firearms legislation across BiH among entity and cantonal weapons laws and full harmonization with EU Directive 2021/555, addressing both international obligations and the need for internal legal consistency. • BiH law enforcement K9 capacities for SALW detection were strengthened, with handlers and experts participating in regional training on deployment in challenging environments, duty dog care and first aid, Product Scent certification, re-testing and practical application of the K9 Guidelines. • A more standardized framework for K9 training and deployment is now in place, following the finalization of the K9 Master Plan, Guidelines, Training Manual and Training Programme Curriculum, supported by 200 copies produced in English and B/C/S. • Operational conditions for K9 units improved across selected BiH law enforcement agencies. Six K9 facilities were upgraded, 11 specialized vehicles and associated equipment were provided to K9 units of 11 LEAs, and priority K9 equipment was delivered to four law enforcement agencies. • Regional and international professional exchange further reinforced BiH K9 capacity development, including a K9 study visit to France and public demonstrations showcasing the operational skills of BiH K9 units.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALW-related data management and information sharing were improved, following two assessments of the SALW tracking case database system and related support to law enforcement agencies on data collection and exchange of information on SALW-related criminal misuse. • Internal police oversight capacities and trust-building efforts were supported by enabling BiH law enforcement participation in a regional conference on internal police investigations, with a focus on internal control mechanisms and community trust. • SALW deactivation capacities were upgraded in Tuzla and Banja Luka. Infrastructure improvements and deactivation equipment/tools strengthened the Tuzla Canton and RS Mol facilities, while expert support from the French Proof House BNE helped build practical knowledge among BiH firearms deactivators and police experts. • Gender mainstreaming was more firmly embedded in project implementation with the finalization of the Project Gender Equality Monitoring Framework.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising prices of goods and services in both local and international markets, driven by supply chain disruptions and reduced availability, are adversely affecting project activities, particularly those involving construction and procurement. • Challenges in sourcing the necessary expertise locally and internationally. • Coordination delays due to the large number of beneficiaries spread across different levels of governance. • A rapidly changing political and security landscape. • Limited supplier engagement and a low number of interested vendors. • The adverse effects of Europe's ongoing political and economic crises specifically impacting Bosnia and Herzegovina.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the CCB to strengthen inter-institutional coordination on SALW-related matters, enhancing their visibility and operational role. • Continuing efforts to promote and increase the meaningful participation of women in all Project-related events and activities. • Planning and supporting regional K9 training in Skopje, North Macedonia, and coordinating with FRONTEX to explore additional training opportunities for BiH K9 experts. • Supporting the Regional K9 Specialized Qualification Course in Lazaropole, North Macedonia. • Strengthening the capacities of LEAs for the collection and sharing of data/information on the SALW and ammunition-related criminal case database.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of the regulatory framework, bylaw on the firearms deactivation in all BiH Jurisdictions. • Supporting regional coordination and cooperation by participating in SALW-related regional activities and initiatives. • Supporting and organizing a new round of SALW institutional outreach and awareness-raising activities in Mostar and Banja Luka. • Organizing a handover ceremony for the K9 Unit facility at the Border Police BiH, Airport Sarajevo, planned for Q2 2026. • Supporting efforts on harmonization of firearms legislation in all BiH Jurisdictions.
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ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Mission in Kosovo ²²
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Support to the strengthening of the Canine (K-9) capacity of the police services to detect and confiscate SALW, ammunition and explosives Mr. Betim Llapashtica, Activity Manager, E-mail: betim.llapashtica@osce.org Mr. Fatos Kugani, Project Officer, E-mail: fatos.kugani@osce.org
PROJECT DURATION	1 September 2020 – 31 December 2027
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police/ K9 Unit
DONOR	Federal Republic of Germany, France, European Union, Norway
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 1,066,317
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 150,000
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the strengthening of the existing K-9 capability of Kosovo Police and its direct contribution towards prevention, suppression and investigation of SALW, ammunition, and explosives misuse and trafficking in the Western Balkans.

²² The inputs presented for this project are based on the information received in November 2025 ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting, held in December 2025, as no subsequent updates have been provided.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of October 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procured additional construction works for the existing Kennels at the K9 Camp Vrelle. Procurement and delivery of five (5) specialized vehicles for the K9 unit, in June 2025.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy and regulatory framework were strengthened, operational knowledge and training were enhanced, and the K9 units' infrastructure and equipment were upgraded—collectively improving their ability to detect, prevent, and support investigations into the misuse and trafficking of SALW, ammunition, and explosives.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing prices of goods and services on local and international markets due to supply chain disruptions and decreasing supply are having adverse effects on planned project activities, especially those involving construction works and purchases. Fluctuating construction costs due to rising labor and material prices. Difficulties in finding the required local and international expertise.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Mission to Montenegro
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Mitigation of Safety and Security Risks related to SALW/SCA in Montenegro; Mr. Johan Dahl, Project Officer, E-mail: johan.dahl@osce.org
PROJECT DURATION	November 2020 – December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Defense – Armed Forces of Montenegro, Ministry of Interior
DONOR	Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 2,171,776
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 671,446

PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced strategic, training and coordination capacities of the Ministry of Defence and other accountable and equitable government bodies in the field of SALW/SCA management. • Support in establishing an SCA surveillance framework. • Support in introducing capabilities to transport SALW/SCA in a safe and secure way according to international good practice. • Support in reconstruction of the storage site "Brezovik" and "Nova lokacija" Židovići – Pljevlja.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition. • Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Austrian Mobile Advisory and Training Team (MATT AUT), with support from the OSCE Mission, conducted two training courses, the Theoretical Basic Ammunition Course and the Practical Basic Ammunition Course, attended by specialists of the Armed Forces of Montenegro. • Completed donation of firefighting equipment for the firefighting training polygon at the military airport in Podgorica. • Conducted two firefighting training courses with in-kind support from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) attended by 20 members of the armed forces. • Conducted five Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) training courses with in-kind support from Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), 64 members of the armed forces attended the five training courses. • On 1 February 2026, an international consultant was contracted for a period of five months to support the MoD Ammunition Technical Working Group in developing updated instructions for ammunition warehouses. The first workshop was held on 24 February 2026, with participants from the MoD, the General Staff and the Armed Forces of Montenegro. • In April 2026, seven women from the Armed Forces of Montenegro, serving in leading roles in fire protection and prevention, attended a one-week, scenario-based “Advanced systematic fire prevention and protection training course” in Stockholm, Sweden.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Memorandum of Understanding governing the project was signed on 4th February 2022.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project completed the Hazard Classification of Montenegro’s Military Explosives and Munitions, including Police ammunition, according to NATO Guidelines for Storage of Military Ammunition (AASTP-1, 2015) and IATG: 01.50 - UN explosive hazard classification system and 90 codes. During hazard classification, all ammunition was updated from the “Nomenklaturni broj JNA”. The final draft was delivered to the MoD and MoI for their further ownership. • The project finalized the Rulebook on safe storage of ammunition according to NATO standard AASTP 1c (2023); the rulebook is pending adoption. • The project completed the Explosive Limit Licensing inspections of three of MoD’s ammunition storage sites, Brezovik, Taraš, and "Nova lokacija" Židovići; the findings are pending adoption. • Under capacity building initiatives with the MoD and the Armed Forces of Montenegro, the project delivered 29 workshops and training courses attended by 247 participants (47 women and 200 men) by the end of April 2026. • The project completed procurement and delivery of furniture for two classrooms and one office, as well as tools and supplies for technical training courses for the dedicated MoD ammunition training facility in Podgorica. • The project provided ADR training and certification under the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (valid for 5 years) for 10 specialists from the Montenegrin Army, Air Force, and Navy. • The project delivered two ADR trucks to the MoD for ammunition transportation. • The project completed all firefighting activities mentioned in the first cooperation plan with the support of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). Namely, a fire prevention needs assessment; training in systematic fire prevention and firefighting, including a ToT; establishing a training polygon; and equipment donations.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formation of a Technical Authority is essential for the sustainability of the project results and long-term impact. In 2025, the proposal for the establishment was reinitiated, and a working group is currently assigned to support ammunition Life-Cycle Management. • Inflation and world market price increases have impacted the project budget, and the budget has been increased to meet the changes. • As the OSCE project will close in December 2026, beneficiaries need to budget for life-cycle costs and sustainability of the project results from 2027 onwards
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will deliver three more workshops and training courses on ammunition management in May, June, and September 2026. The project is scheduled for closure by December 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Mission to Montenegro
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Strengthening the Capacities of the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior to More Effectively Reduce, Prevent, and Counter Illicit Trafficking and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosives; Ms. Zorica Blagojević, Project Officer, E-mail: Zorica.Blagojevic@osce.org
PROJECT DURATION	1 April 2025 – 31 December 2028
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Interior of Montenegro
DONOR	EU, France, Germany, Norway, Spain
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 1,601,323
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 800,400
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To enhance the Mol's capability to reduce, prevent, and counter the trafficking and misuse of SALW, ammunition, and explosives by December 2028. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacities of K9 units of law enforcement institutions under the Mol to detect illicit SALW, ammunition, and explosives are enhanced. • The legal framework on the deactivation of firearms is improved and aligned with international standards, and capacities for its effective implementation and oversight are strengthened.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S (pls specify the target/s)	Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE. Goal 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal possession of firearms.

<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two participants (both men) participated in the FRONTEX Regional Certification Programme on Product Scents in 2025, and one of them successfully completed the programme. • Three participants from the Montenegrin Police, including one woman, have been nominated for the FRONTEX Regional Certification Programme for Dog Handlers on Product Scent 2026 cycle, in North Macedonia, and have successfully completed the first three modules of the programme. • A Montenegrin team of five K9 officers (2 women and 3 men) participated in a regional exercise on K9 deployment in challenging environments in North Macedonia in September 2025. • The first assessment of construction works needed at the K9 Headquarters of the Border Police (BP) and Special Purpose Police (SPP) Unit, as well as at several border crossing points, has been completed. • A contract for the procurement of four specialized K9 vehicles—two for the Border Police and two for the Special Purpose Police Unit—was signed; the full modification of the vehicles was completed on 31 March, and delivery to Montenegro is expected in May 2026. • In support of the development of the legal and institutional framework for the deactivation of SALW, Banc d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne (BNE) was engaged to provide comprehensive advisory services in the field of deactivation. In July 2025, they conducted an in-depth assessment of the existing legislative framework for deactivation, along with an on-site visit to assess capacities and existing mechanisms for deactivation. • In December 2025, BNE experts conducted a selection training course in Montenegro for seven male police officers, and six officers were selected for further training as deactivators and inspectors in France. • Between February and March 2026, three weapons deactivation technicians (all men) from the Police Directorate successfully completed a two-week advanced technical training course, while three weapons deactivation inspectors (all men) attended a separate one-week specialized training at BNE facilities in France.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial assessment of construction work at the K9 Headquarters of the Border Police (BP), the Special Purpose Police (SPP) Unit, as well as at several border crossing points, has been completed. • K9 operational capacity has been strengthened through FRONTEX certification programmes and regional exercises in 2025 and 2026, involving a total of seven participants (including one woman across both cycles), with one successful

	<p>completion in 2025 and three participants advancing through the 2026 programme after completing the first two modules. A Montenegrin team of five K9 officers (2 women and 3 men) also participated in a regional deployment exercise in North Macedonia in September 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procurement and full modification of four specialized K9 vehicles (two for the Border Police and two for the Special Purpose Police Unit) has been completed, with delivery to Montenegro expected in May 2026. • An in-depth assessment of the SALW deactivation legislative framework and an onsite visit to national capacities were conducted by BNE in July 2025, providing key findings that guide the development of the legal and institutional framework for deactivation. • BNE-supported capacity building included a selection training course in December 2025 for seven police officers in Montenegro, resulting in six officers being selected for further specialized training as deactivators and inspectors in France. • Further technical capacity was strengthened through specialized training at BNE facilities in France (February–March 2026), where three weapons deactivation technicians completed an advanced course and three inspectors completed a dedicated inspection training program.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays by the Ministry of Interior in deciding the location of the deactivation facility have created uncertainty in planning and may lead to delays in other related project activities. • Rising inflation and higher global market prices pose risks to project costs, especially for expensive activities such as procurement and construction works for K9 facilities and the deactivation facility.
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed design and tendering process for construction works for K9 facilities upgrade; • Participation in the Regional K9 Specialized Qualification Course (21–27 June 2026, North Macedonia); • Implementation of the FRONTEX Regional Certification Programme 2026, including three modules scheduled in June, July and September 2026; • Detailed design, tendering, and construction works for the deactivation facility; • Procurement of equipment for the deactivation facility; • Support to the working group and monitoring of the development of regulations and procedures for weapons deactivation in Montenegro; • First monitoring visit of BNE experts in November/December 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Mission to Serbia
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>ExB Project: “Strengthening the capacities of the Serbian Ministry of Interior to more effectively reduce, prevent, and counter illicit trafficking and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons, ammunition and explosives”</p> <p>Project Manager: Ms. Ana Petrovic Jovanovic, Legal Adviser, OSCE Mission to Serbia, E-mail: ana.petrovic-jovanovic@osce.org</p>
PROJECT DURATION	February 2022 – September 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Ministry of Interior, Agency for Marking, Branding, Testing, and Deactivation of Firearms and Ammunition
DONOR	European Union, France, Germany and Slovakia
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 1,855,696
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 228,884
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	To strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Interior by developing and implementing legal framework for SALW deactivation and the use of service dogs for detection of SALW, ammunition and explosives, thus contributing to the enhancement of the Mol capabilities to reduce, prevent, and counter trafficking and misuse of SALW, ammunition and explosives in Serbia.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and regularly review the legal framework to regulate production, acquisition and possession for civil use as well as counter trafficking and misuse of weapons and ammunition in line with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2025, an advertising agency was hired to produce promotional video, leaflets and poster that will promote the participation of female police officers in K9

	<p>Units. This initiative is implemented in co-operation with the Women Police Network within the Serbian MoI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 15 July 2025, Amendment No. 2 of the Project Proposal was approved, enabling an eleven-month extension from October 2025 to September 2026. <p>Result 1: The legal framework on deactivation is improved and harmonized with international standards and best practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May and July 2025, the French Proof House (BNE – Saint-Étienne) conducted two expert missions to Serbia to support the development of the normative and institutional framework for SALW deactivation; the missions included meetings with the MoI and the Deactivation Agency, field visits to public and private deactivation facilities to assess current practices, and resulted in a comprehensive legal analysis of Serbia’s deactivation framework, with findings and recommendations formally submitted to the MoI and the Kragujevac Agency in August 2025. In October 2025, a three-day pre-selection training for deactivation technicians and inspectors was organized at the Deactivation Agency in Kragujevac. In December 2025, completed execution of works on limited infrastructural upgrades at the Deactivation Agency in Kragujevac and delivered deactivation equipment. In January 2026, supported advanced training of three Serbian deactivation technicians at the French Proof House (BNE), Saint-Étienne, focused on EU standards, practical deactivation procedures, and quality control. In January 2026, supported specialized training of three Serbian inspectors at BNE, focused on verification and oversight of deactivated firearms. Continued support to inter-agency consultations and legislative alignment efforts related to the draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition, informed by recommendations from the BNE legal and technical analysis. <p>Result 2: The capacity of the MoI K9 Unit to detect illicit SALW, ammunition and explosives are enhanced in compliance with human rights standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2024, the tender for the procurement of the equipment for enhancing the capacity of the K9 Unit was completed. The Donation Agreement was signed on 24 September 2024, and the equipment was delivered in January 2025.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2024, the tender for the procurement of specialized K9 vehicles was completed, and two vehicles were delivered in May 2025. • In October 2024, the tender for Project Design services for the K9 facility Bežanijska kosa was published for the infrastructural upgrades of the K9 Unit and completed in September 2025. • In June 2025, a training and certification mission by the French Dog Training Centre of the Gendarmerie (CNICG) was successfully completed. • In August 2025, a three-day SOP development workshop was held, gathering eight Mol representatives, followed by a technical finalization session with five participants to consolidate the document. • In November 2025 and February 2026, organized two study visits for Serbian Ministry of Interior representatives and SAMBI-certified K9 personnel to Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary, focused on K9 certification systems, operational deployment models, and specialist training methodologies. • In April 2026, supported the participation of two Serbian K9 practitioners in the EMPACT K9 Expert Workshop in Kaluža, Slovakia, including a practical exchange on firearms detection methodologies. • Continued implementation of procurement process for infrastructure upgrades at the K9 training location Bežanijska kosa, including completion of bid evaluation and preparations for contract award.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities of three Serbian deactivation technicians and three Serbian inspectors were strengthened through specialized training at the BNE, improving practical knowledge now certified and compliant with the EU deactivation procedures, quality control, and inspection oversight. • The project supported the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities of the Agency for Marking, Testing, and Deactivation of Firearms and Ammunition through the delivery of specialized deactivation-related equipment and through the completion of reconstruction and modernization works at the Agency's premises in Kragujevac, improving safety, functionality, and conditions for the implementation of deactivation-related tasks. • Recommendations stemming from the BNE legal and technical analysis continued to support progress toward harmonization of the draft legal framework on deactivation with relevant EU standards and strengthened institutional coordination among relevant national counterparts. • Operational capacities under the K9 component were further reinforced through the study visit to Austria and participation of Serbian K9 personnel in the EMPACT K9

	<p>Expert Workshop in Slovakia, contributing to the exchange of operational methodologies and strengthened regional cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress was maintained toward the sustainability of specialized K9 capacities through the advancement of the infrastructure component at Bežanijska kosa, including the completion of procurement evaluation steps and movement toward contract award for works supporting improved operational and training conditions. • Two K9 handlers and two dogs certified by the French Gendarmerie in successfully completing the training for the detection of SALW, ammunition, narcotics, and currency.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in formal adoption of the K9 Master Plan and Standard Operating Procedures. • Delays in the procurement process for K9 infrastructure works are affecting implementation timelines. • Continued funding gap affecting completion of final phase activities.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of recommendations related to the deactivation legal framework and support planned expert review missions. • Support continuation of the K9 certification process, including planned certification under the supervision of the French Gendarmerie. • Complete infrastructure upgrades at Bežanijska kosa and support operationalization. • Support regional/jurisdictional expert seminar on specialized K9 detection capacities. • Continue donor outreach and efforts to address the funding gap to protect the sustainability of project results.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Mission to Skopje
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Assisting the Authorities of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)</p> <p>Mr. Malte Grohmann, Project Coordinator, Public Safety and Community Outreach, E-mail: malte.grohmann@osce.org</p>
PROJECT DURATION	May 2020 – December 2027

PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	The main stakeholders of the project are the bodies and institutions implementing the SALW Strategy and Action Plan, such as the SALW Commission, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and other ministries, and the general population
DONOR	United States, Germany, European Union, Belgium, France, Norway, and Slovakia
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 7,500,000
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 1,829,884
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The overall objective is to support the Government of North Macedonia to implement international commitments in the field of SALW proliferation and contribute to security and stability in North Macedonia.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardize and institutionalize recordkeeping and data collection on weapons, ammunition, and explosives, disaggregated by sex and age. Strengthen planning, coordination, and monitoring functions of SALW Commissions to ensure effective policies on arms control. <p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment, and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities. Improve inter-institutional cooperation at the operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback <p>Goal 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities (including arms, ammunition, and explosive producers, brokers, traders, transport companies, and collectors) about the danger of misuse, illicit proliferation, and risks of diversion of arms, ammunition, and explosives. Increase awareness and education among the general population on the danger of WAE. Increase awareness to reduce the misuse of firearms in violence against women and girls, domestic violence, and other forms of GBV, as well as awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of weapons and explosives and their engagement through targeted programs. Systematically use the legalization of firearms and voluntary surrender of WAE as means for reducing illicit possession and misuse.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal possession of firearms. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically decrease surplus stockpile of SALW, ammunition, and explosives through destruction in an environmentally benign manner and through other means. • Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition. • Ensure safe and secure SALW, ammunition, and explosive storage facilities based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards. • Strengthen the capacities of institutions for monitoring, oversight, and evaluation of the WAE stocks of legal entities and individuals.
<p>ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional K9 Certification Program for Dog Handlers on Product Scent for 2025 was completed. Thirteen participants from Skopje, Podgorica, and Sarajevo jurisdictions completed the program. • The approved standard operating procedure documents for weapons, ammunition, and explosives destruction were distributed. • The approved standard operating procedure on marking and registration of deactivated firearms was distributed. • Three gunsmiths were trained in conducting weapons deactivation, and three inspectors were trained for weapons deactivation verification according to EU Regulation 337/2018 as part of the specialized training for SALW Neutralization and Deactivation delivered by the Banc d'Épreuve de Saint-Étienne. • The layout design and Bill of Quantities for the upgrade of the Weapons Maintenance and Deactivation Workshop have been completed. The tender procedure has been initiated, a vendor has been selected, and the process is currently pending contract finalization. • The project team hired an international expert to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs in developing a K9 Regulatory Framework and assist in the implementation of the K9 Masterplan. The Regulatory Framework document was developed and shared with relevant units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs for their review. • The public awareness campaign on the risks and threats of the misuse of SALW, targeting youth, was officially launched. The campaign's objective is to educate young people about the potential dangers of weapons, emphasizing cultural, ethnic, and gender sensitivities while promoting empathy and non-violence. Three different target groups include: primary school children ages 13-14, secondary school children ages 15-18, and young adults ages 18-27. The campaign continued nationwide with school visits and online outreach.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Regional K9 Training on Deployment in Challenging Environments, with the support of the German Federal Dog Rescue Association and the Union for Mountain Rescue, was conducted in Skopje and Ohrid. The jurisdictions of Sarajevo, Belgrade, Podgorica, Tirana, and Skopje participated in the training. • The infrastructure upgrades for the K9 outpost in Strumica have commenced. • The Regional K9 Certification Program for Dog Handlers on Product Scent 2026 was officially launched with three modules finalized in the reporting period.
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardized and strengthened K9 capacities and operations through developing SOP for the use of police dogs and the K9 Training Manual (printed and distributed), four K9 sites were upgraded and equipped, Gjorche Petrov was designated as the Regional K9 Training and Certification Center; the 2025 Regional K9 Certification Programme on product-scent detection was completed; and 13 handlers were trained with FRONTEX support. • Enabled real-time SALW information sharing; SOP and Training Manual for real-time SALW information exchange were developed and distributed, while ICT, encryption and SIENA were installed at four Police and Customs Cooperation Centers. • Contributed to regional coordination: a High-Level Police and Customs Cooperation Conference on SALW and Migrant Smuggling in Southeastern Europe was held in Skopje, gathering more than 100 participants from six Western Balkan jurisdictions. • Strengthened SALW governance and strategic communication: the Rules of Procedure of the SALW Commission were updated and approved, the Commission's Orientation Manual was developed, and the Communication Strategy (2024–2028) was developed and distributed. • Improved SALW data management: SOP for SALW data collection, tracking and reporting was developed. • Increased public awareness: 25,000 awareness leaflets were produced and distributed, and an animated video on weapons recertification was published. • Standardized deactivation processes and built deactivation capacity: Guidelines for the verification, marking and registration of deactivated weapons and issuance of deactivation certificates were developed and approved; SALW neutralization and deactivation training was completed with BNE support; six operators/verifiers were certified in line with EU standards; and the deactivation certificate template was developed, with secure printer and paper delivered to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Formalized procedures for SALW, ammunition and explosives management: three SOPs on collection, record-keeping, transport and destruction of weapons, ammunition and explosives were developed, approved and distributed.

MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays due to elections in October impacted the progress. • Delays in the implementation of the campaign due to internal organizational constraints and complex procurement procedures. • Several project activities were delayed due to shifting institutional priorities following a jurisdiction-level tragedy. As a result, approximately 500 construction licenses have been revoked, increasing the risk of insufficient bids for construction activities. • Delays due to the Ministry's considerations on centralizing or decentralizing the deactivation processes. • Delays in the initiation of infrastructure upgrades of the Weapons Maintenance and Deactivation Workshop due to the Ministry's decision on an adequate location. • Security check procedures can be lengthy, occasionally leading to delays in the implementation of planned activities.
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a Regional K9 Specialized Qualification Course at the end of Q2 2026. Six jurisdictions from Skopje, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Podgorica, Prishtina, and Kyiv will participate in the training. • Finalize the Regional K9 Certification Program for dog handlers on product scent for 2026 by the end of Q3 2026. • Commence a Regional K9 Certification Program in Q4 2026. Participating jurisdictions to be determined. • Commence the infrastructure upgrades of the Weapons Deactivation and Maintenance Workshop. • Finalize the public awareness campaign on the risks and threats of the misuse of SALW and develop an outreach efficiency report. • Initiate the procurement procedure for the planned infrastructure upgrade and establishment of a safe and secure storage facility for seized and surrendered SALW and CA by Q4 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	OSCE Secretariat
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Strengthening OSCE action against the illicit proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) - Phase 3</p> <p>Mr. Slobodan Boskovic, Project Officer, CPC/FSC Support Section, E-mail: slobodan.boskovic@osce.org,</p>

PROJECT DURATION	January 2023 – December 2028
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	OSCE Region – OSCE assistance providing pS, assistance requesting pS, Secretariat, OSCE Institutions, and the Field Operations
DONOR	European Union, Germany, France, Switzerland, Slovakia, Liechtenstein, Poland, Finland, Norway, Netherlands
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	EUR 2,626,926
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	EUR 1,111,990
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	The project provides policy and technical advice and support to OSCE pS, Secretariat, OSCE Institutions, and the FO's to better conceptualize, plan and implement their commitments against the illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and Conventional Ammunition (CA).
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions of the jurisdictions to implement LCM of SALW and ammunition. • Strengthen the capacities of institutions for monitoring, oversight and evaluation of the WAE stocks of legal entities and individuals.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end April 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2025, the PIT participated in a specialized workshop to strengthen the capacities of K9 units and investigators in detecting illicit firearms. • On 07 April 2025, the Project held the 1st Steering Board Meeting on the implementation of EUCD (CFSP) 2024/3097 in support of SALW Control in South-Eastern Europe. The meeting assessed the overall implementation of SALW and CA control activities in South-Eastern Europe. • Organized regular meetings of Politico-Military focal points, gathering the network of the FSC SU and OSCE FO project practitioners to discuss the progress and challenges implementing SALW and SCA projects, • 28-29 April, as part of the OSCE delegation, the PIT took part in the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Firearms, convened by UNODC, held in person at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna. • Throughout April 2025, the Project promoted two new e-learning modules placed on the OSCE e-learning platform – Theory of Deactivating Small Arms and Light Weapons and Practice on Deactivating Small Arms and Light Weapons. • Together with the SALW ExB projects in Tirana, Skopje, and Belgrade, Project Implementation Team (PIT) facilitated the launch of co-operation between the SALW

	<p>Deactivation Proof House in Saint Etienne (BNE) and the authorities in each jurisdiction. The first assessment mission took place in Skopje in March, while missions to Belgrade and Tirana are scheduled in April and May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 15 May, in cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat’s Transnational Threats Department, Border Security and Management Unit, the project supported the delivery of a training “Identifying and Addressing Trafficking in SALW and CA” held in Bar, Montenegro. The training was delivered in person to a group of 15 senior officers from the Montenegrin Police and Border Police. • On 24 June, the PIT participated online in the 13th Meeting of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova, held in Chisinau, by briefing on the technical assistance OSCE is providing in Moldova in the field of SALW control. • On 26 June, PIT supported the Estonian FSC Chairmanship in organizing the “Informal meeting on strengthening OSCE action against the illicit proliferation of SALW and SCA in SEE”, held in person in Hofburg. • The PIT finalized two interconnected guidance documents on developing and using SALW search and detection dog capabilities of OSCE pS, as well as the Matrix of K9 Assistance across the OSCE Region. While the GNAP outlines the strategic framework and priorities for developing K9 capabilities, the Matrix Document offers a detailed overview of the technical assistance and operational milestones achieved to date. • The Project developed an e-learning course scenario on Gender Mainstreaming in SALW Assistance Projects, aligned with the OSCE Gender Equality Programme, Action Plan, and SDG 5. The course translates OSCE SALW and SCA commitments into practice, highlighting strategic, operational, and tactical approaches to gender mainstreaming to enhance project effectiveness and sustainability. • The PIT completed support to the OSCE Mission to Skopje SALW ExB Project in providing the Frontex Certification Programme on Product Scent modules. Its successful completion marked a key milestone, finalizing a year-long training of K9 units and unifying and enhancing detection capabilities across the SEE to combat the illegal proliferation of SALW and CA. • The Project also supported the organization of the Informal Briefing on Status of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Assistance Projects in the OSCE as of 30 September 2025 to inform pS of the implementation progress of the projects.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 2 and 3 October, the PIT in co-operation with multiple international partners (UNDP SEESAC, UNIDIR, AMAT, SAS, EMPACT Firearms, and others) organized a closed expert meeting on SALW control in the conflict cycle. • From 2 to 7 November 2025, the project, in cooperation with EMPACT Firearms under Operational Action 6.4, co-organized a workshop in Kaluža, Slovakia, for K9 practitioners from South-Eastern Europe, Ukraine, and Moldova. • On 2 February 2026, the PIT supported a coordination meeting between the OMiK SALW Project, the PiA SALW Project, and experts from the French Gendarmerie to finalize preparations for the evaluation and certification of SAMBI handlers from the Kosovo Police and the Albanian State Police. • From 22 to 27 February 2026, the PIT supported a study visit of K9 handlers from the Serbian Ministry of Interior Police Brigade, certified in the SAMBI methodology. The delegation visited K9 training centres in Hungary and Austria. • On 12 March 2026, the PIT participated in the Structured Peer-to-Peer Exchange on Regional Roadmaps to Support Sustainable Arms Control, organized by UNLIREC. The meeting served as an initial platform for continued dialogue among Roadmap custodians, enabling the exchange of lessons learned and strengthening cooperation across regions. • On 25 March 2026, the PIT supported the organization of an online co-ordination meeting on the implementation of SALW and SCA Assistance Projects. The coordination meeting held bi-annually, aimed to strengthen project cycle management for SALW/SCA/HMA initiatives and to streamline best practices across the Organization. • On 18 March 2026, the PIT completed the handover of donation items procured in support of the establishment of the SALW deactivation workshop at the premises of the Kosovo Forensic Agency. • 12-17 April 2026, the PIT, acting in synergy and as a co-driver within the framework of EMPACT Firearms Operational Action 5.4 alongside the Presidium of the Police Force of Slovakia, supported an international K9 workshop held in Kaluža, Slovakia. The workshop facilitated the participation of representatives from South-East Europe (SEE), Moldova, and Ukraine. In addition, the PIT contributed to the presentation of the SAMBI methodology by two instructors from the Belgrade Police Brigade, who are certified by the French Gendarmerie. • 27-30 April, the Project Manager participated in the 41st Staff Course at the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, delivering the lecture on Illicit Trafficking of SALW, covering the following topics: Overview of emerging risks and
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	<p>trends; Introduction to the thematic of combating illicit trafficking of SALW and CA; Considerations for enhancement of control procedures at the border for illicit SALW and CA detection; Underlying interagency and international cooperation tools in support of combating illicit trafficking of SALW and CA.</p>
<p>KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<p>Promoted Strategic Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project continuously advocates for sustained political commitment to SALW control across the OSCE area. It also promotes the importance of strategic alignment and strengthens the coherence of SALW control efforts across the region. <p>Enhanced Co-ordination and Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project serves as a central platform for information exchange and coordination across the OSCE region. It provides timely, evidence-based recommendations and strategic advisory support that inform and guide SALW-related activities in line with the existing security landscape and emerging threats. <p>Strengthened Technical and Operational Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By providing critical equipment, targeted assistance, and high-quality training aligned with international norms and OSCE commitments, it strengthened local capacities for SALW control and risk mitigation, ensuring accountability and reinforcing operational capacities to counter illicit proliferation of SLAW. In the reporting period, deactivation equipment was procured in support of the Kosovo authorities as well as supported the certification of 6 specialists from Kosovo, who obtained BNE certificates and became deactivation experts. <p>Improved Knowledge Management and Visibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective functioning of the SALW Portal has enhanced access to knowledge products and information on OSCE support for SALW. It has strengthened the OSCE programmatic staff's ability to provide and coordinate technical assistance to states requesting it in an effective and coherent manner.
<p>MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rapidly changing global security environment continues to shape the breadth and intensity of SALW control measures across the OSCE area. Shifts in policies and strategic priorities among participating States are further intensifying the complexity of planning, co-ordination and delivery of SALW-related assistance. At the same time, the growing socio-economic and security impacts of emerging global challenges, alongside the development and spread of new technologies, are further contributing to these complexities. In this context, maintaining effective co-operation and

	<p>alignment among all stakeholders on shared objectives remains essential to ensuring a coherent and timely OSCE response to SALW control.</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL END OF 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PIT will develop one knowledge product and e-learning material to support OSCE staff in practical assistance projects. • Continue supporting SEE jurisdictions in strengthening their deactivation capacities through a strategic partnership with the BNE. • Continue building on collaboration with the French K9 Training Center in Gramat (Centre d’instruction cynophile de la gendarmerie – CNICG) to advance the standardization of K9 detection practices across the SEE region. • Continue the partnership with the Slovak Police under the EMPACT Policy Framework to strengthen K9 detection capabilities and cross-border cooperation by linking SEE, UKR, and MLD K9 units with the broader practitioner network and facilitating the exchange of experiences. • Promotion, use, and visibility of the SALW Portal (https://salw.osce.org/) remain central to the PIT. The project will continue to develop the Portal’s functionality to ensure it provides real-time information on SALW projects and developments across the OSCE region. Terms of Reference for further enhancements and optimization are currently being prepared, with completion and alignment anticipated by the end of 2026.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	Project Justitia: Support to the Criminal Justice Response to Counter Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Chief, Firearms Trafficking Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC, Email: simonetta.grassi@un.org
PROJECT DURATION	November 2023 - December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Western Balkan jurisdictions
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD \$2,890,815
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	USD \$1,500,000
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Project Justitia directly builds upon the previous project on “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans”, implemented by UNODC in 2020-2023, and represents a comprehensive effort to strengthen the criminal justice system’s response to organized crime and illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans. By addressing gaps in legislation, enhancing the abilities of criminal justice practitioners, and harmonizing criminal legislation approaches across the region for better operational exchange, the project aims to create a more effective and unified approach to combat these pressing issues and support the implementation of the Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	Goal 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards. Goal 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms. Goal 4:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (1 January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the public debates on Criminal Codes in Podgorica and Belgrade, • Working Group session organized in Sarajevo on harmonization of firearms provisions (12 February) and a two-day Working Group meeting finalizing draft amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code (14 members), • Written comments submitted to the reopened public consultations in Serbia on the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, • Six local validation workshops organized on training materials for the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences: Podgorica, Vienna, Tirana, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, • Three knowledge-management products for prosecutors and judges finalized (prosecutor manual, prosecutor curriculum, judges' curriculum) for Albanian practitioners • Guidelines on investigating firearms offences in postal parcels finalized and distributed in BiH and Serbia, • Presentation of UNODC guidelines in BiH, on special investigative measures, case-law collections and firearms-identification manual at the Police Academy of the Federal Police Administration, • Six jurisdiction-specific knowledge-management products on special investigative measures (SIMs) finalized: Tirana, Belgrade, Skopje, Pristina, Podgorica, Sarajevo, plus one regional comparative product, • Sub-regional workshop held in Tirana launching locally adapted SIMs guidelines, • Presentation of project case studies at the 12th session of the UNODC Working Group on Firearms in Vienna, contributing to the adoption of Recommendations 11 and 12 (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2025/4), • Four "Firearms in the Courtroom" specialized trainings, Skopje, Gostivar, Bitola and Shtip appellate areas, • Regional training manual on firearms, their parts, components and ammunition finalized in Serbian, Macedonian and Albanian, • Practical ballistic manual for BiH prosecutors and judges finalized at the request of the SALW Coordination Board, • Firearms Case Law Collection (Volume 2) finalized and validated, completing the cycle across all six jurisdictions,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional methodology for the analysis of firearms-related judgments developed and validated through two sub-regional expert meetings, • Regional knowledge-management product "Balancing Justice and Rights: Case Law on Human Rights in Organized Crime and Trafficking Cases in the Western Balkans" finalized. <p>2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination meeting in Sarajevo with the Ministry of Justice on the status of draft amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code, • "Firearms in the Courtroom" training delivered in Skopje, • Training delivered in Podgorica on the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related cases, including a visit to the Forensic Centre ballistic laboratory, • Mock trial organized in Skopje on a firearms-related case with the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" with master's students in criminal law, • Two entity-level trainings delivered in Banja Luka and Sarajevo on the investigation and prosecution of firearms offences with CEST RS and CEST FBiH, • Specialized training delivered in Belgrade on the adjudication of firearms-related cases with the Judicial Academy and the Criminalistic Police University, with the French Liaison Magistrate and a prosecutor from the Paris Organized Crime Department,
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal harmonization efforts on firearms-related offences were advanced, including through formal contributions to public consultations, Working Group support on firearms provisions, and finalization of draft amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code. • Knowledge-management tools for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement practitioners were finalized and disseminated, including manuals, curricula, postal-parcel investigation guidelines, SIMs products, firearms-identification materials, a practical ballistic manual and regional case-law products. • Regional consistency in judicial and prosecutorial handling of firearms cases was strengthened, with the Firearms Case Law Collection finalized and validated across all six jurisdictions and a regional methodology for analysing firearms-related judgments developed and validated. • Capacities of prosecutors, judges, police and future legal practitioners to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate firearms-related cases were strengthened through specialized trainings, validation workshops, mock-trial exercises and practical exposure to forensic and ballistic expertise.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of special investigative measures in firearms-related cases was supported, with six jurisdiction-specific SIMs knowledge products and one regional comparative product finalized and locally adapted guidelines launched. • Regional and international knowledge exchange was reinforced, including through presentation of project case studies to the UNODC Working Group on Firearms, contributing to the adoption of Recommendations 11 and 12. • Human-rights-based adjudication in organized crime and trafficking cases was supported through finalization of the regional knowledge-management product “Balancing Justice and Rights”.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing and design layout of knowledge-management products for delivery of trainings, • Delivery of capacity building activities.

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>Project Hermes 2.1: Countering Trafficking in Firearms in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels</p> <p>Ms. Simonetta Grassi, Chief, Firearms Trafficking Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC, Email: simonetta.grassi@un.org</p>
PROJECT DURATION	October 2024 - December 2026
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Western Balkan jurisdictions
DONOR	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	USD \$1,730,387
FUNDING GAPS (IF ANY)	USD \$1,000,000
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Project Hermes is aimed at increasing the capacities of the Western Balkans jurisdictions to counter trafficking of firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosives through Express

	<p>Courier and postal parcels. The project builds upon a pilot initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2020 to 2022 and the project’s first phase implemented by UNODC in 2023. Under Hermes Phase 2.1, UNODC will support all jurisdictions in the WB to strengthen their response to firearms trafficking through the provision of advanced courses for X-ray operators, workshops targeting analytical units of customs administrations and DPOs, and through the delivery of specialized equipment to customs administrations and DPOs.</p>
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S</p>	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. <p>Goal 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives.
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (1 January 2025 – end April 2026)</p>	<p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven advanced X-ray image-analysis training courses delivered across all six jurisdictions, • Thirteen on-the-job mentoring sessions delivered, • Sub-regional workshop organized in Sarajevo on risk analysis and risk indicators with French Customs, • Two hand-held explosive detectors delivered, and operator training provided in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, • 10 Working Group meetings organized under the MoUs between Customs and designated postal operators, • Local public-private workshop organized with express courier companies, the Indirect Tax Authority and designated postal operators, • Consultations with express courier companies organized across all six jurisdictions and partnership established with the postal regulator RATEL in Serbia, <p>2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two on-the-job mentoring sessions delivered at the postal depot in Skopje using the installed X-ray scanner, • Second sub-regional workshop organized in Tirana on risk analysis and risk indicators with French Customs and ARMSTRONG leadership, • One knowledge-management product on trafficking trend analysis and risk profiles developed, • Seven X-ray scanners delivered and installed, • Procurement of two hand-held explosive detectors for Pristina and Skopje,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sub-regional public-private cooperation workshops organized, engaging express courier companies with customs, postal operators and regulators from all six jurisdictions, with ARMSTRONG leadership • Local public-private cooperation meeting organized in Skopje with DHL, FedEx, UPS and ELS, • Firearms-identification training delivered in Belgrade for express courier staff with the Criminalistic Police University and RATEL.
KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection capacities for firearms trafficking through postal and courier channels were strengthened across all six jurisdictions, including through advanced X-ray image-analysis training, on-the-job mentoring, and practical use of installed X-ray scanning equipment. • Operational screening capacity was enhanced through the delivery and installation of seven X-ray scanners and the provision of hand-held explosive detectors, complemented by operator training and mentoring at relevant postal and customs locations. • Risk analysis and targeting capacities were improved, supported by sub-regional workshops with French Customs and ARMSTRONG leadership, and the development of a knowledge-management product on trafficking trend analysis and risk profiles. • Public-private cooperation on countering firearms trafficking in postal and express courier flows was strengthened, with customs authorities, designated postal operators, regulators and express courier companies engaged through Working Groups, consultations and sub-regional/local cooperation meetings. • Institutional cooperation under Customs–postal operator MoUs was advanced, including through regular Working Group meetings and broader engagement with postal regulators, including RATEL in Serbia. • Awareness and firearms-identification capacity within the express courier sector increased, including through specialized training for express courier staff in Belgrade with the Criminalistic Police University and RATEL.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	N/A
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-regional workshops on public-private cooperation for countering firearms in postal channels, • Delivery and training on hand-held explosive detectors, • Editing and design layout of knowledge-management products for delivery of trainings under project Justitia and project Hermes, • Delivery of capacity building activities under project Justitia and project Hermes.

PROJECTS CLOSED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION/AGENCY	European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) Project
PROGRAMME/PROJECT TITLE AND CONTACT PERSON	<p>EU Policy Cycle 2022-25 against organized and serious crime Strategic goal 8: Cooperation with non-EU partners (non – EU countries, international organisations and partners). Operational action 8.1 OAP 2022: Cooperation with the South-East Europe: Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine.</p> <p>Activity contact point: Mr. Carlos del Moral Tomlinson, Action Leader Operational Action 8.1. Empact Firearms, JAD SEE Coordinator, Guardia Civil, E-mail: carlostimlinson@guardiacivil.es EMPACT email: firearms@guardiacivil.org</p>

PROJECT DURATION	2021-2025
PROJECT BENEFICIARY/IES	Bulgaria, Croatia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Estonia, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Switzerland, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia.
DONOR	European Union, lead by Spain
PROJECT TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 300,000 EMPACT FIREARMS high-value grant. • EUR 3,000 to 60,000 under specific operational request. Operational funding is supported by the Low Value Grant and Eastern Partnership, the latter of funds is exclusively aimed at Eastern European jurisdictions. • From 2025: ISF FORTIFY (EUR 3.000.000)
FUNDING GAPS	Funds preassigned to activities identified at the beginning of the projects. Low level of flexibility to reallocate HVG and ISF funds.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>The project aims to combat firearms trafficking by implementing various Operational Actions outlined in the 2024-2025 Operational Action Plan. These actions address identified needs within jurisdictions, EU Member States, and international partners, including SEESAC. The operational actions have a comprehensive approach from the operational and strategic response to the external dimension, capacity building, innovation and prevention, by developing activities addressed by the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal intelligence picture; • Investigations and judicial response, with a specific focus on high-risk criminal networks (HRCN) and key individuals; • Coordinated controls and operations targeting the online and offline trade in illicit goods & services; • Criminal finances, money laundering and asset recovery; • Document fraud; • Capacity building through training, networking and innovation; • Prevention and harm reduction, assistance to victims, awareness raising; • External dimension: cooperation with non-EU partners; • Administrative approach.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE ROADMAP OVERALL TARGET/S	<p>Goal 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and counter trafficking, misuse, illicit manufacturing, and possession of WAE through improved procedures, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement and criminal justice entities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve inter-institutional cooperation at operational level on intelligence sharing, including the provision of systematic and timely feedback. • Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and platforms to counter misuse, illicit manufacturing, possession and trafficking of WAE.
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED (January 2025 – end of April 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE Coordination meeting of international partners in support of SALW control efforts in Ukraine, February 2025, online. • SEE-JAD 2025 Preparatory meeting, February 2025, online. • SEESAC Regional Steering Group. Meeting on SALW, March 2025, online. • COM - 3rd meeting on the state of play and way forward on the establishment of Firearms Focal Points and the standardisation of data collection on firearms at EU level, March 2025, Brussels (Belgium). • European Firearms Experts Steering Committee and Plenary Meeting (EFE), April 2025, Warsaw (Poland). • FORTIFY Kick-off meeting, April 2025, Madrid (Spain). • OSCE - Expert Discussion "Joint Measures to Counter Illicit Trafficking of Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives (WAE) in Ukraine", April 2025, online. • CEPOL – Training National Firearms Focal Points, May 2025, Lisbon (Portugal) • CONVERSUS-ARMSTRONG Meeting, May 2025, Madrid (Spain). • 13th Meeting of the EU support hub for internal security and border management in Moldova, June 2025, Chisinau (Moldova). • SEE-JAD 2025 Planning meeting – intelligence and operational phase, June 2025, online • SEE-JAD 2025 Coordination meeting, July 2025, Tirana (Albania). • EMPACT Firearms fine-tuning meeting, September 2025, The Hague (Netherlands). • SEE-JAD intelligence phase and preparatory meeting, September 2025, Warsaw (Poland). • FORTIFY - Expert Meeting on “Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in Different Stages of the Conflict Cycle – Lessons Learned and Good Practices from South-Eastern and Eastern Europe”, October 2025, Vienna (Austria). • FRONTEX-CEPOL-EMPACT Industry days, October 2025, Zagreb (Croatia). • SEE-JAD 2025 Coordination meeting, October 2025, online.
MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotation of Driver in EMPACT Firearms. Loss of expertise. • Reduced commitment of JAD SEE beneficiaries, which led to a postponement of the JAD SEE 2025 to Q1 2026.

KEY RESULTS DURING THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the FRONTEX-CEPOL-EMPACT Industry days, October 2025, Zagreb (Croatia).
ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNTIL THE END OF 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable. Project closed in December 2025.

For the list of projects that were closed before this reporting period, please refer to the [document with inputs from international organizations](#) published ahead of the 14th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting.