



REGIONAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP

for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by
2024

*Progress information on the Roadmap Goals Overall Targets:
1 January – 30 June 2023*

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List of abbreviations

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BP	Border Police
BDBiH	Brčko District Bosnia and Herzegovina
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DCPB	Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies BiH
EC	European Commission
EMPACT	European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats
EU	European Union
EUCOM	United States European Command
EULEX IPCU	EULEX International Police Cooperation Unit
Europol	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
Eurojust	The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
FAE	Firearms, ammunition and explosives
FBiH	Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina
FFP	Firearms Focal Point
Frontex	The European Border and Coast Guard Agency
iARMS	INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records, Tracing Management System
Interpol	The International Criminal Police Organization
ITA	Indirect Taxation Authority BiH
JAD	Joint Action Day
LFC	Land Forces Command Structure
MoD	Ministry of Defence
Moi	Ministry of Interior
MOFTER	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MOSAIC	Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium
MTTT	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NSAP	NATO Support and Procurement Agency
OKTIV	Firearms and Ballistics Division of the Department of Forensic Investigations and Expertise
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RACVIAC	Centre for Security Cooperation
RASR	Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction
RIEP	Regional Arms Export Information Exchange Process
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SEE	South-East Europe

SEEFEG	South-East Europe Firearms Expert Group
SEEFEN	South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Center
SIENA	Secure Information Exchange Network Application
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency BiH
SOCTA	Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNPoA	United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
WRMP	Weapon Registration and Stockpile Management System

ROADMAP GOAL 1

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

<p>Roadmap Overall Targets:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish complete legal framework to counter all forms of illicit possession, trafficking and misuse of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (FAE). 2. Ensure full legal and regulatory framework is in place with regards to FAE producers. 3. Fully harmonize arms control legislation with EU legal framework and in line with international agreements/standards. 4. Ensure compatibility of arms control legal frameworks across the Western Balkans, which allows direct operational cooperation. 5. Ensure standardization of procedures and practices in the area of arms control and FAE investigations. 6. Exchange good practices with a specific focus on the areas defined in the Roadmap.
<p>Progress information on Goal 1 Overall Targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported; 2. Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis; 3. Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol; 4. Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Progress information on Goal 1 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

1.1 Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported

Guiding questions:

What are the laws and bylaws regulating arms control?

What is the level of harmonization of each of the laws with the EU Acquis?

Legal framework regulating arms control includes:

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette, No. 20/15, 10/19 and 20/20);
- Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 14/22)
- **Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition** (Official Gazette, No. 87/18)
- **Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment** (Official Gazette, No. 107/14)
- **The Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods** (Official Gazette, Nos. 95/13 and 77/19),
- **Law on Production and Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment** (Official Gazette, No. 36/18)
- **Law on Defence** (Official Gazette, No. 116/07, 88/09, 104/09 – other law, 10/15 and 36/18)
- **Law on the Serbian Armed Forces** (Official Gazette, No. 116/07, 88/09, 101/10, 88/15 – CC and 36/18, 94/19 and 74/21 - CC)

Additional information

- Pursuant to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, the following by-laws have been adopted:
 - Rulebook on Weapon Deactivation;
 - Rulebook on Training in Handling Firearms, Repair of Weapons and Trade in Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on Spatial and Technical Conditions for Safe Storage and Keeping of Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on the Records Kept by the Competent Authority as Prescribed by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on the Procedure for Issuing Documents, the Layout and Content of Forms stipulated by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on Records Kept by Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs;
 - Rulebook on the Weapon Loaning Procedure;
 - Rulebook on Determining Medical Fitness of Natural Persons to Hold and Carry Weapons, adopted by the Minister of Health in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Instruction for the Authorized Officials on the Manner of Handling Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives found at the place of the event;
 - The Protocol for securing the weapons found at the scene, which was adopted at the same time, is incorporated in the Instruction.
 - The Government Conclusion 05 No. 56-3807/2023 of 4 May 2023
 - The Government Conclusion 05 No. 56-3866/2023 of 5 May 2023;

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis

Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- The Government Conclusion 05 No. 56-3807/2023 of 4 May 2023 and the Government Conclusion 05 No. 56-3866/2023 of 5 May 2023, which were adopted after the tragic events in May 2023, ordered government authorities to undertake relevant measures.
- In this regard, since May 2023, experts from the Ministry of the Interior have been intensively working on the **amendments to the Law on Arms and Ammunition**. During the work on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Arms and Ammunition, direct cooperation was established with a number of stakeholders (associations and organisations) to produce a high-quality solution to the Draft Law and achieve high-level security for the citizens of Serbia. **The development of the above Draft Law is underway.**
- Under the **Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment** (The Official Gazette, No. 107/14) the following decisions were adopted in the reporting period:
 - Decision on the Establishment of the National Control List of Arms and Military Equipment (The Official Gazette, No. 39/23);
 - Decision on the Establishment of the National Control List of Dual-Use Goods (The Official Gazette, No. 30/23).
 All three documents: the Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment and decisions are harmonized with the EU Acquis.
- **The Draft Law on Explosives**, which is to regulate the production and trade of explosives for civilian use and pyrotechnic articles, has been finalized and will be submitted for further adoption procedure. The planned deadline for its adoption is Q4 of 2023.
- In the period 31 May – 1 June 2023, the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior participated in the **Regional Workshop on harmonization of legislation in the field of SALW Control with the EU Acquis**, which was organised by SEESAC in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to share the latest

developments regarding the harmonization of the legal framework on firearms, ammunition and explosives with the EU Acquis.

1.3 Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

Has the jurisdiction accessed, signed or ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol?

Is 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

- **Serbia signed and ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in October 2014**, before its entry into force (*The Official Gazette*, No. 14/14) and fully applies it. In line with international obligations assumed under this Treaty, Serbia submits regular annual reports (until 31 May of the current year for the previous year) on the export and import of weapons and military equipment. These reports are transparent, without restrictive parts, and are publicly available to all ATT member states.
- Serbia ratified the **Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** (Law on Ratification of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (*The Official Journal of Serbia and Montenegro*, No. 11 of 22 October 2005).
- Article 347 of the Criminal Code (*The Official Gazette*, Nos. 85/05, 88/05 – corr., 107/05 – corr., 72/09, 111/09, 121/12, 104/13, 108/14, 94/2016 and 35/19) – *Making and Obtaining Weapons and Tools Intended for Commission of an Offence* – stipulates that “whoever, with the aim of committing a criminal offence, makes, obtains or enables another to acquire weapons, ammunition, explosive substances or blasting and explosive agents, as well as the means required for their manufacturing or poison, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to five years”.
- Furthermore, Article 348 of the Criminal Code – Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives – stipulates that (1) Whoever without authorization manufactures, alters, sells, procures, exchanges or possesses firearms, convertible or deactivated firearms, their parts, ammunition, explosives or explosive devices shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years and a fine.
 - (2) If the subject of the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is firearms, ammunition, explosive substances, explosive devices or explosive-based substances or gas weapons whose manufacture, sale, procurement, exchange or possession is not allowed to citizens, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of one to eight years and a fine.
 - (3) If the subject of the offence referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article is a larger quantity of weapons, ammunition or devices or weapons and other devices of large destructive power are in question, or the offence is committed contrary to the rules of international law, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of two to twelve years.
 - (4) Unauthorized carrying of items referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be punished with imprisonment of two to twelve years.
 - (5) Unauthorized carrying of items of the subject of the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the procurement and possession of which was previously approved by the competent authority shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to five years.
 - (6) Weapons, its parts, ammunition, substances and means referred to in paragraphs 1-5 of this Article shall be seized. Therefore, this Article is fully harmonized with Article 5, paragraph 1, points a) and b).
- Article 41 of the Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition stipulates that “whoever makes false stamps or markings for testing, stamping and marking of weapons, devices and ammunition with the intent to use them as genuine, or who, with the same intent, alters such genuine stamps or markings or use such false or altered stamps or markings as genuine, shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment of up to three years. The stamps or markings referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be seized.” Bearing in mind the

above, this Article is partially harmonized with Article 5 of the Protocol since removal of marking is not criminalized under the Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition.

- By the Decision of 12 May 2021, the **Ministry of Justice established a Working Group** to analyse the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and to prepare the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code. The Ministry of the Interior, which participates in the work of this group, is committed to the further alignment of the Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol and has suggested amendments to Article 348 of the Criminal Code - *Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives*. The Ministry of Justice, considering all relevant recommendations, prepared the outline of the **Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code**, which amends Article 348 - Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives and prescribes three criminal offences instead of this one.

1.4 Compliance with UN Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance with the UN's Firearms Protocol?

- Considering the previous UNODC support in the area of harmonizing criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol, **Serbia expressed interest in participating in the second phase of the project: Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking**, bearing in mind the participation in the first phase of this project. Meanwhile, the Ministry of the Interior appointed a contact point from the Criminal Police Directorate for the potential implementation of the project.
- During the reporting period, UNODC sent the Ministry of Justice additional recommendations for the harmonization of the Criminal Code with the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. These recommendations are in line with the recommendations contained in the Analysis of the Compliance of the Criminal Legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol, which was prepared within the same project.

1.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions: *Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial for the activities in the achievement of this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?*

- **Serbia needs expert support to further harmonize the existing legislation with EU Acquis** and fulfil other internationally assumed obligations. A field that particularly stands out is the field of explosives precursors, which is not regulated.

PODGORICA

1.1 Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported

Guiding questions:

What are the laws and bylaws regulating arms control?

What is the level of harmonization of each of the laws with the EU Acquis?

Arms control is regulated by following legislation:

- Law on Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 10/15);
- Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (Official Gazette, No. 14/07 and 04/08);

- Law on Control of Exports of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette, No. 145/21);
- Law on Foreign Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment (Official Gazette, No. 40/16);
- Law on Foreign Trade in Goods and Services which could be used for Capital Punishment, Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Official Gazette, No. 40/16);
- Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases (Official Gazette No. 26/10, 31/10 and 40/11);
- Customs Law (Official Gazette, No. 07/02, 38/02, 72/02, 21/03, 31/03, 29/05, 66/06, 21/08, 62/13 and 71/17);
- Law on Explosives (Official Gazette, No. 49/08, 31/14 and 31/17);
- Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases (Official Gazette, No. 26/10, 31/10 and 40/11);
- Law on the Transport of Hazardous Substances (Official Gazette, No. 33/14 and 13/18);
- Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 70/03, 13/04, 47/06, 40/08, 25/10, 32/11, 64/11, 40/13, 56/13, 14/15, 42/15, 58/15, 44/17 and 49/18); and
- Criminal Procedure Code (Official Gazette, No. 57/09, 49/10, 47/14, 02/15, 35/15, 58/15 and 28/18).

Additional information

The area of explosives for civil use is regulated by following legislation:

- Law on Explosives (“Official Gazette of Montenegro,” No. 49/08, 31/14 and 31/17) which regulates the conditions for the production, trade, procurement, storage and use of explosives;
- Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases (“Official Gazette of Montenegro,” No. 26/10, 31/10 and 40/11);
- Law on Transport of Hazardous Substances (“Official Gazette of Montenegro,” No. 33/2014, 13/2018).

Law on Weapons (“Official Gazette of Montenegro,” No. 10/15) is:

- **partially harmonized with Directive (EU) 2021/555;**
- **not harmonized with Regulation 2018/337; Directive 2019/68 and Directive 2019/69.**

The Law on the Control of Export of Dual-Use Goods (“Official Gazette of Montenegro,” No. 145/21) and **the Law on Foreign Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment** (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 40/16) **are harmonized** with the EU acquis in this field.

The Law on Explosives (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 49/08, 31/14 and 31/17), **the Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases** (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 26/10, 31/10 and 40/11), as well as **the Law on Transport of Hazardous Substances** (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 33/2014, 13/2018) **are not harmonized** with the EU acquis in the field of civil use of explosives.

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis

Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- **The draft of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons is in the adoption procedure.**
- After the adoption of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons, **a by-law for the implementation of this Law shall be adopted and it will regulate the techniques for permanent deactivation of weapons** in accordance with the EU Commission Regulation 2018/337 of 5 March 2018.
- The Draft Law on the Amendments to the Law on Weapons which the 42nd Government withdrew from the parliamentary procedure by Conclusion No. 04-2960 of 12 May 2022, was followed by personnel changes in the line of work concerning weapons, both at the level of senior management, and at the level of expert management and expert staff, which is why this Law was not re-included in the adoption procedure. **The Draft Law received a positive opinion from the EC –harmonized with EU directives.**

- After that, due to the new security circumstances in the region, there was a need to reconsider the proposed legal solutions, as well as to additionally examine the applicable legal solutions administrative proceedings, tightening of the conditions for issuing weapons permits, establishing a more efficient procedure for confiscation of weapons, issues of supervision and control of natural and legal persons who have firearms in legal possession, the issue of keeping weapons, storing weapons, issues of the integrity of brokers, establishing shooting ranges and gender mainstreaming in this field, the issue of arms and ammunition trade, but also classifying convertible weapons (starting, gas and signal) in category B and prescribing the obligation to issue the approval for keeping convertible weapons.
- The new Working Group, which consists of a wider circle of stakeholders, i.e. representatives of entities from different areas concerning SALW, works intensively on improving the text of the Law, taking into account the already established Draft Law, so the plan is for the improved draft law to be sent once again to a public hearing by the end of this year, since 50% of the norms would change.
- Special attention will be paid to the procedure of issuing medical certificates, so the Ministry of Health will work with the Ministry of the Interior to draft a Rulebook that will prescribe the conditions that a health institution must meet in order to be able to issue this type of certificate, the conditions that natural persons must meet in terms of their medical fitness to keep weapons, or to keep and carry weapons, the manner and procedure of performing medical examinations, the list of diseases and medical conditions that are an obstacle for issuing a weapons permit, the manner of keeping records and medical documentation, the content of the certificate of medical fitness, the amount of fee for determining medical fitness, as well as the method and procedure of reporting to the Ministry on the change in the health status of the weapon owner.
- The emphasis will also be on the introduction of the legal basis for the adoption of a by-law that defines the manner in which a police officer should perform the security check and collect data on the applicant in the part of determining the absence of circumstances that the weapon could be misused due to disturbed family relations, but also due to other circumstances.
- An e-petition for the adoption of the Marko and Mašan's Law was filed by representatives of families whose members were killed during the events in Cetinje. The petition calls for the strictest punishments for this type of crimes, psychological observations when issuing medical certificates, stricter conditions for issuing weapons permits, simpler and more efficient procedures for confiscation of weapons, they demand justice for the killed victims and to ensure that something similar never happens again. It also calls for the new Law on Weapons to be called Marko and Mašan's Law in the public. A meeting was held with the representatives of the families of the victims, and they will take part in the work of this Working Group as stakeholders.
- Manufacturing and marking is already provided for in the existing Law on Weapons in Chapter VI. After the analysis of the activities for the production and control of the production of weapons, a task force was established for drafting this regulation in 2021, and it is currently working on drafting the regulation governing the production of weapons and ammunition, after which the marking of weapons and ammunition will be regulated.
- Together with the Directorate-General of the European Commission for Migration and Home Affairs and the European External Action Service, representatives of Montenegro took part in a two-day regional workshop on the harmonization of legislation related to arms control for the Western Balkans jurisdictions, Moldova and Ukraine. The event was organized by SEESAC from 31 May to 1 June 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.

1.3 Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

Has the jurisdiction accessed, signed or ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol?

Is 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

- Yes, the Arms Trade Treaty was ratified on 14 August 2014.
- Yes, the Firearms Protocol was ratified on 22 October 2005.

Yes, **illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives in the Criminal Code of Montenegro, this criminal offence is prescribed in Article 403.** Namely, the actions of this criminal offence are alternatively prescribed and one of them is the unauthorized sale of weapons, ammunition and explosives, which falls under the unlawful trade in weapons, ammunition and explosives. The prescribed punishment for this criminal offence fully fulfils the condition of not considering the principle of *non bis in idem*.

1.4 Compliance with UN Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance with the UN's Firearms Protocol?

- **The analysis of weapons regulations compliance was carried out** with the support of UNODC: Special attention was paid to the analysis of the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code related to the detection of criminal offences of illegal production, trafficking and other illegal activities related to weapons, as well as the conduct of criminal proceedings. The analysis contains recommendations related to amendments to the Criminal Code (determining the definition of illegal production and trafficking of weapons, as well as illicit production and trafficking of weapons, their essential components and ammunition), the Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on Confiscation of Proceeds from Criminal Activity in terms of also extending confiscation measures to offences from Articles 403 and 433 of the Criminal Code. In 2021 a working group was established, and it drafted amendments to the Criminal Code, after which the relevant institutions were consulted.
- The draft provisions on firearms in the Criminal Code of Montenegro were sent to the European Commission in October 2022 for consideration and comments. They cover full harmonization of the Criminal Code with the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (UN Firearms Protocol). New criminal offences were added:
 - amendment of Article 403 that clearly separates the acts of keeping and carrying firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosives. Aggravated forms of these acts were also prescribed;
 - new criminal offence – Illicit manufacturing of weapons and explosives Article 403a;
 - it introduces criminal offence 403b Illicit trade of weapons and explosives;
 - forging and easing markings from weapons and explosives Article 403c.

Montenegro is the only one in the region to harmonize this part of the acquis and received the green light from the EC. The amendments to the Criminal Code need yet to be adopted in the Parliament.

1.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial for the activities in the achievement of this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes, in the part of the normative regulation of foreign trade in controlled goods in Montenegro, the **expert support in defining the text of the Draft National Law on Manufacturing, Modernization and Overhaul of Weapons and Military Equipment, expert assistance in controlling the harmonization of national legislation.**
- **Yes, support was requested.** The subject version of the Law on Manufacturing, Modernization and Overhaul of Weapons and Military Equipment was sent to BAFA. BAFA submitted its response in October 2020. After that period, there was periodic communication with the mentioned organization.

PRISTINA

1.1 Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported

Guiding questions:

What are the laws and bylaws regulating arms control?

What is the level of harmonization of each of the laws with the EU Acquis?

There are 6 laws:

- Law "On weapons" 05/-022, **Partially harmonized.**
- Law No. 05/L-017 On amending and supplementing the Law No. 03/L-246 "On weapons, ammunition and relevant security equipment for authorized state security institutions", **incomparable.**
- Law No. 04/L-022 "On the civil use of explosives", **partially harmonized.**
- Law No. 05 / L-134 "On legalization and surrender of weapons, ammunition and explosive devices", **incomparable.**
- Law No. 04/L-198 "On the trade of strategic goods", **partially harmonized.**

There are 30 Administrative Instructions, as follows:

- Administrative Instruction No. 09/2016 - MIA - For catalogue of firearms;
- Administrative Instruction No. 10/2016 - MIA - For the type and way of theoretical and practical training, professional exam and verification of the quality of employed instructors to legal entities that will be licensed for training;
- Administrative Instruction No. 05/2016 - MIA - On the Reviewing Commission and Appeals Commission;
- Administrative Instruction No. 08/2016 - MIA - On the minimum conditions on storing weapons, parts of weapons and ammunition;
- Administrative Instruction No. 04/2017 - MIA - On the usage of C8 category of weapons and ammunition for animal temporary paralysis;
- Administrative Instruction No. 10/2010 - MIA - Security technical conditions to be fulfilled in the facilities of civilian shooting ranges;
- Administrative Instruction No. 03/2016 - MIA - On the permit to carry weapon;
- Administrative Instruction No. 12/2010 - MIA - Regarding minimum technical and security conditions of facilities used for practical and theoretical training in handling weapons;
- Administrative Instruction No. 13/2010 - MIA - On collection weapons;
- Administrative Instruction No. 14/2010 - MIA - On cold weapons (Category D4);
- Administrative Instruction No. 24/2010 - MIA - On the procedures of inheritance of firearms and ammunition in the case of death of the firearm owner;
- Administrative Instruction No. 25/2010 - MIA - On tracing the firearms, their parts and ammunition;
- Administrative Instruction No. 26/2010 - MIA - On marking of firearms, their parts and ammunition;
- Administrative Instruction No. 27/2010 - MIA - On the manner of transferring the firearms, their parts and ammunition across the state border;
- Administrative Instruction No. 04/2012 - Regulation for carrying a weapon;
- Administrative Instruction No. 08/2017 - (MIA) - On shooting ranges for entities in possession of equipment for special purposes;
- Administrative Instruction No. 02/2016 MIA - On temporary export permit, verification of import by the end user, security measures by the authorized state security institutions in nominating the responsible person and the criteria for escort during the transport of ESP;
- Administrative Instruction No. 04/2016 MIA - On the authorized list for equipment of special purposes for state security institutions;
- Administrative Instruction No. 04/2013 - MIA - On criteria and procedures for licenses and permits;

- Administrative Instruction No. 06/2013 - MIA - On cooperation with national and international organizations;
- Administrative Instruction No. 08/2013 - MIA - On education and criteria for professional qualification and programs for professional training;
- Administrative Instruction No. 14/2013 On retail selling points of pyrotechnic and firework supplies;
- Administrative Instruction No. 07/2013 - MIA - On UN hazard classification and compatibility groups;
- Administrative Instruction No. 15/2014 On professional training for inspectors, their appointment and the inspector manual;
- Administrative Instruction No. 13/2014 On storage of ammonium and other fertilizers;
- Administrative Instruction No. 14/2014 For the special security measures in transport of permitted explosives and fireworks;
- Administrative Instruction No. 12/2014 On additional safety criteria for explosives;
- Administrative Instruction No. 14/2015 On investigation of accidents with explosives and pyrotechnical products;
- Administrative Instruction No. 12/2015 On procedures and forms for placing explosives and pyrotechnical materials in the market, requirements for CE marking and marking of packages;
- Administrative Instruction No. 09/2018 - On legalization of weapons.

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis

Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

The following activities were undertaken during this period:

- **The Administrative Instruction “On technical procedures for the deactivation of weapons falling under “A,” “B,” “C” and “D” categories,”** which is in full compliance with EU Regulations, has been in force since 22 June 2023;
- **The draft-law “On weapons”** is currently being reviewed and finalized;
- **The draft-law “On civil use of explosives”** has been finalized and is foreseen to be adopted within this year;
- **The Administrative Instruction “On SALW manufacturing”** has been finalized and is foreseen to be adopted within this year.

1.3 Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

Has the jurisdiction accessed, signed or ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol?

Is 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

- **It has not been signed, but it is part of the Law on Weapons.**
- The following are being defined pursuant to the Criminal Code No. 06/L-074, chapter XXIX, Articles 364 -369:
 - Unauthorized import, export, supply, transport, manufacturing, exchange, mediation or sale of firearms and explosives.
 - Illicit obliteration, removal or altering of the markings on firearms or ammunition.
 - Unauthorized ownership, control or possession of firearms.
 - The use of weapons or life-threatening items.
 - False permits, consents and licences of weapons and the provision of false information.
 - Manufacturing and obtaining weapons and items for conducting criminal offences.

1.4 Compliance with UN Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance with the UN's Firearms Protocol?

- Activities include discussions on the idea of increasing the severity of sentences or imposing "additional sentences" on persons possessing weapons, their parts and ammunition, who are sentenced on grounds of domestic violence and gender-based violence. **The Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code are currently being supplemented/amended.**

1.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial for the activities in the achievement of this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?

- Difficulties in the drafting of the legislation due to frequent amendments to the Firearms Directive, discrepancies between the laws of regional countries and beyond, and the foreseen administrative procedures are complicated.
- Difficulties in inter-institutional and international cooperation as regards direct data sharing.
 - Support in the drafting of the legislation through expertise, trainings, study visits, certifications.

SARAJEVO

1.1 Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported

Guiding questions:

What are the laws and bylaws regulating arms control?

What is the level of harmonization of each of the laws with the EU Acquis?

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER)

- **Law on the Production of Weapons and Military Equipment** ("Official Gazette of BiH" no. 09/04 and 25/09). Partially harmonized with EU Acquis.
 - Instructions on the procedure for issuing licenses to legal entities for the production and overhaul of weapons and military equipment and the manner of keeping records in the Central Register ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 36/04);
 - Instructions on the manner and conditions for the reissue of the permit ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 69/10);
 - Instructions on how to perform constant supervision and reporting in the production and overhaul of weapons and military equipment ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 28/04);
 - Instructions on inspection supervision in the production and overhaul of weapons and military equipment ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 28/04).
- **Law on the Marking of Small Arms, Light Weapons and Ammunition** ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 83/16). Partially harmonized with EU Acquis.
 - Instructions on the conditions for obtaining authorization for marking weapons and ammunition ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 49/18);
 - Rulebook on Arms and Ammunition Marking Procedures and Methods ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 49/18).

- **Law on Control of Foreign Trade in Arms, Military Equipment and Special Purpose Goods** ("Official Gazette of BiH" No: 53/16). Partially harmonized with EU Acquis.
 - Rulebook on keeping the register of persons involved in foreign trade in weapons, military equipment and special purpose goods ("Official Gazette of BiH" no: 68/17);
 - Rulebook on the form and content of documents in the foreign trade of weapons, military equipment and special purpose goods ("Official Gazette of BiH" number: 68/17);
 - Instructions on the conditions and procedure for issuing documents in the foreign trade of weapons, military equipment and special purpose goods ("Official Gazette of BiH" no: 69/17);
 - Decision on updating and publishing the Common List of Weapons and Military Equipment ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 64/19) COMMON LIST OF EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY GOODS adopted by the Council on 18 February 2019.
- **SIPA** - Harmonization of legislation regarding civilian possession of weapons is the responsibility of the Entity, i.e., the Canton and Brcko District, which is largely harmonized with the EU recommendations.
- **Prosecutor's Office** - Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Law on Control of Foreign Trade in Arms, Military Equipment and Special Purpose Goods, Common List of Weapons and Military Equipment of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations.

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- When it comes to combating all forms of illegal possession, trafficking and abuse of firearms, ammunition and explosives, the Federal Police Administration carries out measures and actions within its competence with the aim of documenting criminal offenses prescribed by the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are criminal offences referred to in Article 193 "Unauthorized trade in weapons and military equipment and dual-use products" of the Criminal Code of BiH, and Article 371 "Unauthorized Possession of Weapons or Explosive Substances" and Article 343 "Production and procurement of weapons and means intended for committing criminal offenses" of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior (FMoI)** - Also, when it comes to illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, since the Law on Procurement, Possession and Carrying of Arms and Ammunition has not yet been adopted at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Police Administration works or acts in accordance with the cantonal Laws on Procurement, Possession and Carrying of Arms and Ammunition, depending on the area in which the canton acts.

Republika Srpska

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 26/16, 18/17, 31/18 and 58/19). The Law is partially harmonized with the Council Directive from June 18, 1991 on the control of the Procurement and possession of weapons, (91/477/EEC), 1991L0477, (OJ L 256, 13.09.1991, p. 51) / Council Directive from June 18, 1991 on the control of the Procurement and possession of weapons (91/477/EEC), 1991L0477, (OJ L 256, 13.9.1991, p. 51). including the 2008 amendments to this Directive and to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, May 31st, 2001, Accession April 1st, 2008, Entry into force May 1st, 2008.

Brčko District BiH

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Brcko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brcko District of BiH, No. 39/11, 2/12, 6/13). Partially harmonized with EU Acquis.
- By-laws adopted after the adoption of the above Law are:
 - Rulebook on the training program and method of training for the proper handling, holding and carrying of weapons;

- Rulebook on the work of the Commission for deciding on the submitted request for the procurement and carrying of weapons and ammunition;
- Rulebook on the manner and conditions for safe accommodation and storage of weapons and ammunition, Rulebook on spatial and technical conditions of civilian shooting ranges;
- Rulebook on Forms and Content of Forms prescribed by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Brcko District of BiH.

Una-Sana Canton

- USC Law on Weapons and Ammunition. Partially harmonized with EU Acquis.
 - Rulebook on the procedure for deciding on applications for authorizations for the Procurement and possession of weapons, issuance and replacement of weapons documents, as well as the procedure for issuing certificates, notices and other documents;
 - Rulebook on the appearance and content of forms of documents on weapons and applications for issuing documents on weapons and other documents;
 - Rulebook on measures and actions taken by the police administration of the Ministry of the Interior on the implementation of amnesty for illegal possession of firearms, as well as in relation to the legalization of firearms;
 - Rulebook on forms, content and manner of keeping records of Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on the forms, content and manner of keeping records on weapons and ammunition of legal and natural persons registered for performing activities;
 - Rulebook on firearms for the performance of business activities of legal entities;
 - Rulebook on the disabling of firearms;
 - Rulebook on the accommodation and storage of weapons and ammunition;
 - Rulebook on spatial and technical conditions for the storage, accommodation and use of weapons and ammunition at civilian shooting ranges, number and type of weapons owned by civilian shooting ranges, manner of using weapons at civilian shooting ranges and operation of civilian shooting ranges;
 - Rulebook on the procedure for resolving requests for conducting training in the handling of weapons, authorizations for performing activities (trade, repair, modification or alteration and disabling of weapons) and authorizations for the establishment of civilian shooting ranges;
 - Rulebook on the appointment and mode of operation of commissions and other bodies in the process of assessing the fulfilment of conditions and justification of requirements for issuing approvals and documents on weapons;
 - Rulebook on the training program and method of training for the proper handling and knowledge of regulations regarding the holding, storage and carrying of firearms, appointment and mode of operation of the Commission;
 - Rulebook on the procedure for confiscation of weapons, essential parts, ammunition and documents on weapons, as well as the manner of handling weapons, essential parts, ammunition and documents on weapons after the administrative procedure has been carried out;
 - Rulebook on the method of operation of the commission for supervision of the implementation and application of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Una-Sana canton;
 - Rulebook on the conditions to be met by health institutions that will perform medical examinations that determine the ability to carry and own weapons;

Posavina Canton

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Posavina Canton (Official Gazette of the Posavina Canton 4/2018) and Amendments to the Law on weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette No. 11/22). The law is partially harmonized with EU Acquis.

Tuzla Canton

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, 17/15, 5/16, 17/17, 87/20, 19/21 and 19/22). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.

Zenica-Doboj Canton

- Law on the Procurement, Holding and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition - Consolidated Text (Official Gazette of ZDK no.9/13, 1/14 and 13/18). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde

- Law on the Procurement, Holding and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition. The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.

Central Bosnia Canton

- Law on the Procurement, Holding and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the CBC no.: 12/14,9/15 and 10/22). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.
 - Rulebook on the Appearance and Content of Forms of Documents on Weapons and Ammunition, Application for Approval for the Procurement of Weapons and Ammunition, Request for Registration of Weapons and Certificate on the Registration of Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on the Training Program and Method of Training Citizens for Proper Weapons Handling and Holding and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition;
 - Rulebook on the Conditions for the Establishment of Civilian Shooting Ranges;
 - Rulebook on the Content and Method of Keeping Records;
 - Rulebook on medical examinations for determining the medical fitness for owning and carrying weapons and ammunition.

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (5/17 Amendments 5/20). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.

West Herzegovina Canton

- Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 5/17, 16/18 and 9/19). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.
 - Rulebook on the conditions for carrying out the activity of training citizens for the proper use of firearms and the program and method of implementation of training (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 20/18);
 - Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping records of legal persons and craftsmen (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 6/18);
 - Rulebook on the existence of spatial, technical and safety conditions of the business premises intended for the transport of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 1/18);
 - Rulebook on the appearance, content of the form of documents on weapons and ammunition and their issuance (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 9/17);
 - Rulebook on the conditions and manner of holding and storing weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 9/17);
 - Rulebook on the Disabling and Destruction of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 17/17);
 - Rulebook on the existence of spatial and technical conditions of business premises and professional knowledge of persons for performing repair and refurbishment activities (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 17/17);
 - Rulebook on the existence of spatial, technical and safety conditions of civilian shooting ranges and professional knowledge of persons handling weapons and managing civilian shooting ranges (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 15/17);
 - Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping records of police bodies (Official Gazette of the WHC No: 13/17).

Sarajevo Canton

- Criminal Code of the FBiH, Law on the Procurement, Holding and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, corrections no.1/18, 13/18 and 30/19). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.
 - Rulebook on Records kept in accordance with the provisions of the Articles 70 and 71 of the Law on the Procurement, Holding and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18);
 - Rulebook on the appearance and content of the form of documents on weapons, as well as requests for issuing documents on weapons and other documents (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20);
 - The Rulebook on measures and actions taken by the Directorate of Police of the Ministry of the Interior to implement amnesty for illegal possession of weapons from category B, as well as regarding the legalization of weapons (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20);
 - Rulebook on the manner of work of commissions of competent Police Directorates in the Directorate of Police of the Ministry of the Interior and others in the process of assessing the fulfilment of the conditions and justification of the requirements for obtaining approval for the procurement of weapons and the right to compensation (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20);
 - the Rulebook on the manner of operation of the commission for supervision over the implementation and application of the Law on Procurement of Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition in the Police Directorates of the CS MoI (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 03/20);
 - Rulebook on the program, method of operation and destruction, composition of the commission, costs and other issues related to the destruction of confiscated weapons (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20);
 - the Rulebook on the training program and method of training for proper handling and knowledge of regulations regarding the keeping, holding and carrying of firearms (Official Gazette of the SC no. 02/20 and 24/20);
 - Rulebook on the Accommodation and Storage of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20);
 - the Rulebook on the conditions necessary for issuing the authorization for the performance of activities related to the trade in weapons, essential parts of weapons and ammunition, mediation in the trade of weapons, essential parts of weapons and ammunition, establishment of civilian shooting ranges, manner of storing and holding weapons, essential parts of weapons and ammunition, manner and determination of conditions, composition, right to compensation and the amount of compensation of the competent Police Directorate in the Police Directorates of the SC MoI (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20);
 - Rulebook on the spatial and technical conditions of the civilian shooting ranges (Official Gazette of the SC no. 2.20).

Canton 10

- The Law on Arms and Ammunition of the Canton 10 ("Official Gazette of the Canton 10", No. 6/13), the Law on Amendments to the Law on Arms and Ammunition of the Canton 10 ("Official Gazette of the Canton 10", No. 7/18) and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Arms and Ammunition of the Canton 10 ("Official Gazette of the Canton 10", No. 6/21). The Laws are harmonized with Council Directive 91/477/EEC and Directive 2008/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, and partially harmonized with Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive (EU) 2021/555.
 - Rulebook on the conditions that must be met by health institutions performing health examinations for determining the medical fitness of a person for holding and owning and carrying weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 2/14, 9/22);
 - Rulebook on the appearance, content and price of forms of documents on weapons, forms of applications for approval for the procurement of weapons and ammunition, applications for registration of weapons and applications for registration of weapons (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the program and manner of implementation of training of citizens for the proper use of firearms (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14, 2/21 and 5/21);
 - Rulebook on the appearance, content and price of books of records on the collection of old and holding trophy weapons that are required to be kept by legal and natural persons (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the conditions for performing the activity of traffic in weapons and ammunition, and the appearance, content and price of books of records required to be kept by legal persons and craftsmen (Official Gazette of the Canton 10 Nos. 5/14 and 14/14);
 - Rulebook on the manner of keeping records on repaired or modified weapons and forms and content of forms for keeping these records (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the appearance, content and price of the certificate form issued by state authorities and other legal entities to the person to whom they give weapons and ammunition for the purpose of protecting their property outside the facility or the area to be secured and the manner of keeping records (Official Gazette of the Canton 10 No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the conditions for safe accommodation and storage of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the conditions for the establishment of civilian shooting ranges and the appearance, content and price of books of records required to be kept by legal persons, craftsmen and sports shooting organizations (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the appearance and content of the books of records that are required to be kept by the administrative bodies responsible for internal affairs in the Canton 10 (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14);
 - Rulebook on the procedure and method of disabling and destroying weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of the Canton 10, No. 5/14).

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis

Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in a **two-day regional workshop on the harmonization of arms control legislation** for jurisdictions coming from the Western Balkans, the Moldova and Ukraine. The event took place from May 31st to June 1st, 2023, in Brussels, Belgium and it was organized by the SEESAC.
- **Republika Srpska:** Harmonization is planned through subsequent amendments to the Law or through a bylaw.

- **Brčko District:** A working group was formed and in the process of drafting amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Brcko District of BiH.
- **Una-Sana Canton:**
 - Rulebook on the manner of taking, recording, keeping and storing mechanical traces of firearms (Article 68, paragraph 5);
 - Rulebook on the form, content and manner of keeping the database (Article 88, paragraph 7);
- **Posavina Canton:** Prepared proposals for amendments to the Rulebook adopted on the basis of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.
- **Tuzla Canton:**
 - A draft Law on Weapons and Mining was prepared, and harmonized with the EU Council Directives at the level of the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the TC, in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Security of BiH, and it was submitted to the Minister of the Interior of the Tuzla Canton, as an authorized proponent, for review and jurisdiction.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton:** This ministry is currently in the phase of drafting a new Law in order to harmonize the Law with EU legislation.
- **Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde:** A working group was formed and drafting of the new law is in the process.
- **Central Bosnia Canton:** Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Procurement, Carrying and Owning of Weapons and Ammunition is being prepared.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton:** A member of the working group for the harmonization of weapons regulations at the Ministry of Security of BiH has been appointed.
- **Canton 10:** In accordance with one of the conclusions of the workshop "Harmonization of firearms laws with the EU acquis", held on October 17-19, 2022, in Banja Luka, in April 2023 a list of a comparative review of our proposal for the categorization of weapons in relation to the EU Directive 555/2021 was sent to the Ministry of Security of BiH.

1.3 Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

*Has the jurisdiction accessed, signed or ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Firearms Protocol?
Is 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?*

- Yes, the **Arms Trade Treaty** was signed on 25 September 2013, and it was ratified on 25 September 2014. BiH acceded to the **Firearms Protocol** on 1 April 2008 and ratified it on 25 September 2014.
- **BiH Ministry of Justice / Prosecutor's office:**
 - Illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 2) illegal trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illegally obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms are regulated by the ZONDIN (Law on Weapons at Cantonal Levels) and illicit trade of firearms prescribed by the Criminal Code of BiH, when it comes to the transfer across the border.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior (FBiH):**
 - Yes. When it comes to combating all forms of illegal possession, trade and misuse of firearms, ammunition and explosives, the Federal Police Administration implements measures and actions within its competence with the aim of documenting criminal offenses prescribed by the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The offences referred to in Article 193 "Unauthorized trade in weapons and military equipment and dual-use products" of the Criminal Code of BiH and referred to in Article 371 "Unauthorized possession of weapons or explosive substances" and

Article 343 "Development and Procurement of Weapons and Means Intended for Committing Criminal Offenses" of the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH.

- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:**
 - These acts are envisaged as a criminal offense "Illicit production and trade of weapons or explosive substances, referred to in Article 361 Of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska" ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 64/17).
- **Brčko District Police:**
 - Yes. The Criminal Code of the Brcko District of BiH prescribes the following criminal offenses:
 - Article 158 Whoever in the territory of the Brcko District of BiH sends or transfers armed groups of people, terrorists, spies, commandos, weapons, explosives, poisons, equipment, ammunition or other material for the purpose of committing a criminal offence;
 - Article 337 Whoever makes weapons, explosive substances or devices for their preparation or poisons known to be intended for the commission of a criminal offence, manufacture, procure or otherwise enable them to occur;
 - Article 365 Whoever, without authorization, manufactures, modifies, sells to the public or exchanges firearms, ammunition or explosive substances the procurement of which is not permitted at all.

1.4 Compliance with UN Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance with the UN's Firearms Protocol?

- No information was provided.

1.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions: *Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial for the activities in the achievement of this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?*

- No information was provided.

SKOPJE

1.1 Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported

Guiding questions:

What are the laws and bylaws regulating arms control?

What is the level of harmonization of each of the laws with the EU Acquis?

- **Law on Weapons** (Official Gazette No. 7/05, 47/06, 42/07, 86/08, 72/10, 158/11, 119/13, 164/13, 97/18, and 171/22);
- **Rulebooks:**
 - Rulebook on the forms for requests and permits for transportation of weapons and ammunition for import, transportation of weapons and ammunition for export, transfer of weapons and ammunition for import, transfer of weapons and ammunition for export, transfer of weapons and ammunition in transit and transportation of weapons and ammunition in transit that are issued in electronic format (Official Gazette No. 94/2009 and 156/2010 and Official Gazette No. 17/20);

- Rulebook on the technical specifications for deactivation of firearms, the form and the content of the template for designating deactivated weapons, and the form and the content of the template of the Certificate of deactivated firearm, (Official Gazette No. 221/20);
- Rulebook on the criteria and requirements in terms of material-technical and IT equipment of the premises designated for conducting the weapon licence exam (Official Gazette No. 126/2014);
- Rulebook on the templates for weapons and ammunition and on the manner of record- keeping of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette, no. 93/2005, 94/2009, 2/2010 and 156/2010, 35/2014);
- Rulebook on the training program for proper use, storage and maintenance of weapons, on the conduct of practical training in handling weapons, as well as the conduct of the licence exam in technical knowledge about the proper use of weapons and familiarity with weapon regulations, (Official Gazette, no. 83/2005,135/2008, 56/2010 and 145/2014);
- Rulebook on the minimum technical and safety requirements to be met by the facilities of legal entities in charge of practical training in handling weapons (Official Gazette, no. 83/2005,135/08);
- Rulebook on the minimum technical and security requirements to be met by the facilities at civilian shooting ranges (Official Gazette, no. 11/2007 and 135/2008);
- Rulebook on the minimum technical and safety standards to be met for facilities engaged in the production, repair, sale, and storage of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette, no. 111/2007);
- Rulebook on the type and conduct of medical examination to determine an individual's medical fitness to possess and carry weapons, list of diseases and health conditions that render an individual unfit to possess and carry weapons, as well as the manner and procedure for the issuance of a medical certificate (Official Gazette, no. 98/2005) and Decision on the determining the health care facilities in which a medical examination of a natural person shall be performed to determine the medical fitness to possess and carry weapons (Official Gazette, no. 83/2007);
- Rulebook on the transfer of weapons and ammunition across the state border (Official Gazette, no. 51/2007);
- Rulebook on the handover, receipt and storage of weapons and ammunition in case of the weapon owner's death, as well as the forms and contents of the receipts for the weapon and ammunition handed over to the competent authority (Official Gazette, no. 51/2007);
- Regulation on the types of weapons that may be purchased on the basis of license and on the purpose of certain types of weapons under A and D categories (Official Gazette, no. 51/2007 and 2/2011).
- **Law on Development, Production and Trade in Military Goods** (Official Gazette No. 298/21)
- By-laws adopted in the reporting period:
 - Rulebook on the form and content of the request for issuing an end-user certificate, as well as the form and content of the template of the end-user certificate and the international import certificate (Official Gazette no.123/22)
 - Rulebook on the form and content of the template for the identity card as well as the issuance and revocation of the identity card of the inspectors of the Directorate for Special Purpose Production (Official Gazette No.123/22).

The Ministry of Economy has a legal obligation to adopt other 10 bylaws within 12 months as of the entry into force of this Law and until such bylaws are adopted, the bylaws adopted on the basis of the old Law on Production and Trade of Arms and Military Equipment are valid, and they are as follows:

- Rulebook on the manner of issuing the permit for engaging in export-import, transit and brokerage, as well as on the form and content of the request and the permit for export-import, transit and brokerage of armament and military equipment 1 (Official Gazette of RM, No. 137/14).
- Rulebook on the content, form and manner of keeping the Registry of issued permits for export-import, transit and brokerage and on rejected applications for obtaining permits for armament and military equipment (Official Gazette of RM, No. 115/14).
- Rulebook for the production and trade in armament and military equipment (Official Gazette of RM, No. 73/2004).
- **Law on Control of the Export of Dual Use Goods and Technologies** (Official Gazette No. 82/05, 84/07, 158/10, 136/11, 199/14, 192/15, 53/16 and 215/21);

- Rulebook on the form and content of the "End-user Certificate" when importing dual-use goods and technologies (Official Gazette of RM, No. 31/06);
- Rulebook on the procedure for issuance of a permit for transit of dual use goods and technologies and on the form and content of the application and the permit for transit of dual use goods and technologies (Official Gazette of RM, No. 111/11);
- Rulebook on the form and content of the templates of the application for obtaining a permit for brokerage services and of the permit for brokerage services for dual use goods and technologies (Official Gazette of RM, No. 111/11);
- Rulebook on the form and content of the templates of the application for obtaining a permit for export and of the permit for export of dual use goods and technologies (Official Gazette of RM, No. 111/2011);
- (Acts adopted pursuant to the EU Treaty) (Acts adopted pursuant to Chapter V of the EU Treaty) Council Common position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008 defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment.
- Decision on defining the list of dual-use goods and technologies.
- **Law on Trade in Explosive Substances** (Official Gazette of the SFRY no. 30/85, 6/89 and 53/91) and (Official Gazette No. 12/93, (31/93 corrigendum) 66/07, 86/08 and 148/15);
 - List of explosive substances that are allowed to be put into circulation („Official Gazette “No. 64/98, 19/01. 46/04 and 106/06, 208/15 and 104/18 and „Official Gazette “56/19, 120/19, 231/19, 52/20, 42/21 and 280/22).
- **Law on Protection Against Explosive Substances** (Official Gazette No. 4/78, 51/88, 36/90, 12/93, 66/07, 84/08, 135/11 and 148/15);
 - Rulebook on the form and content of the templates of the applications and the approvals for transport and procurement of explosive substances („Official Gazette “No. 146/09 and „Official Gazette “No. 14/20).
- **Criminal Code** (Official Gazette No. 37/96, 80/99, 4/02, 43/03, 19/04, 81/05, 60/06, 73/06, 7/08, 139/08, 114/09, 51/11, 135/11, 185/11, 142/12, 166/12, 55/13, 82/13, 14/14, 27/14, 28/14, 41/14, 115/14, 132/14, 160/14, 199/14, 196/15, 226/15, 97/17 and 248/18 and Official Gazette No. 188/23).
- **Law on Criminal Procedure** (Official Gazette No. 150/10, 100/12, 142/16 and 198/18).

Additional information

- **Law on Weapons is harmonized with:**
 - **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403** of 15 December 2015 establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable;
 - **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/337** of 5 March 2018 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable. Following the adoption of the legislative amendments on deactivation in the Law on Weapons in 2018, in 2020 the Rulebook on technical specifications for deactivation of firearms, the form and content of the template for marking a deactivated weapon and the form and content of the deactivated weapon certificate was adopted, (Official Gazette “No. 221/20).
- Partially harmonized with:**
 - **Directive (EU) 2021/555** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (codification);
 - **Regulation (EU) No 258/2012** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012, implementing Article 10 of the United Nations’ Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UN Firearms Protocol), and establishing export authorisation, and import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.
- Not harmonized with:**
 - **Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/68** of 16 January 2019 establishing technical specifications for the marking of firearms and their essential components under Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

- **Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/69** of 16 January 2019 laying down technical specifications for alarm and signal weapons under Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.
- **Law on Protection of Explosive Substances and Law on Trading in Explosive Substances Not harmonized with the EU Acquis;**
 - We are in the process of enacting a new law that will be harmonized with:
 1. CELEX: 32014L0028
Directive 2014/28/EU of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses.
 2. CELEX: 32014L0058
Commission Implementing Directive 2014/58/EU of 16 April 2014 setting up, pursuant to Directive 2007/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, a system for the traceability of pyrotechnic articles.
 3. CELEX: 32013L0029
Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles.
 4. CELEX: 32012L0004
Commission Directive 2012/4/EU of 22 February 2012 amending Directive 2008/43/EC setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses.
 5. CELEX: 32008L0043
Commission Directive 2008/43/EC of 4 April 2008 setting up, pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, a system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses.
- **Law on manufacture of and trade in armament and military equipment** is **partially harmonized** with the EU Acquis.
- **The Law on Control of Exports of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies** is **harmonised with EU Acquis** except for the provisions that should start to apply after the accession of North Macedonia into the EU.

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis

Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- Within the legal framework for control of small arms and light weapons, a working group was established to prepare amendments to the **Law on Weapons**. The law is planned to be adopted by the end of 2023 and to be harmonised with the new Directive (EU) 2021/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, Regulation (EU) No. 258/2012. With technical support from SEESAC, the working group prepared a draft text of the Law amending the Law on Weapons, which was submitted for adoption to the Government in November 2023.
- As for the **Law on Explosive Substances for Civil Use**, the working group, with assistance from SEESAC, is actively engaged in drafting a new law that will be harmonized with European regulations in this domain. The law is anticipated to be adopted by the end of September 2024.
- A review of the existing **laws related to explosive precursors** has been conducted. Subsequently, communication will be established with the Ministry of Health, which issues permits for the import of chemicals, to facilitate further coordination of activities.
- A Working Group within the Ministry of Economy is actively engaged in drafting a new **Law on the control of the export of dual-use goods and technologies**, aligning it with EU regulations in the area.
- **Regional Workshop on harmonization of legislation in the field of SALW Control with EU Acquis** was held on 31 May-1 June 2023, Brussels, Belgium – SEESAC.

1.3 Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

Has the jurisdiction accessed, signed or ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol?

Is 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

- **The Arms Trade Treaty** was signed on 25.09.2013 and ratified on 07.03.2014. **The Firearms Protocol** was ratified on 14.09.2007.
- The listed crimes in the Criminal Code of North Macedonia are defined and harmonized with the Firearms Protocol. Namely, the Criminal Code of North Macedonia, defined as criminal acts the following:
 - **Manufacture and procurement of weapons and means intended for committing a crime (Article 395);**
 - (1) Whosoever manufactures, assembles, procures, hides or enables another to get weapons, ammunition, explosive or firing material or means necessary for their manufacture, poisons and other objects being aware to be intended for commission of a crime, shall be sentenced to imprisonment of one to five years.
 - (2) If the object of the criminal act referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article are firearms, arms whose use is prohibited or explosive or other materials in greater quantity, the offender shall be sentenced to imprisonment of three to eight years;
 - (3) Whosoever makes or gives to another a false key or some other means for breaking in, even though he knows that it is intended for committing a crime, shall be sentenced to imprisonment of three months to three years;
 - (4) If the crime referred to in this Article is committed by a legal entity, they shall be fined;
 - **Unauthorized manufacture, possession, mediation and trade in weapons or explosive materials (Article 396)**
 - (1) Whosoever without authorization imports, exports, transports, transfers, delivers or sells, buys or otherwise brokers or trades in firearms, parts and components of firearms, ammunition or explosive substances, or trades in firearms, parts and components of firearms, ammunition and explosive substances that violate prohibitions, restrictions or sanctions introduced by international agreements ratified in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia or by a decision of an international organization of which the Republic of North Macedonia is a member, will be punished with imprisonment from four to ten years.
 - (2) In accordance with the sanction specified in paragraph (1) of this article, individuals engaging in the unauthorized manufacture, assembly, repair, modification of firearms, parts and components of firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances, as well as those involved in the development of new weapons or possession of electronic technical drawings and designs for production through 3D printers or similar devices for parts and components of firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances, shall be subject to sanctioning.
 - (3) A person who unlawfully keeps or carries firearms, ammunition or explosive substances or a large number of parts and components of firearms, ammunition and explosive substances, shall be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Article.
 - (4) If the subject of the crime from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article is a large quantity of firearms, parts and components of firearms, ammunition or explosive substances or firearms, parts and components of firearms, ammunition or explosive substances that citizens are prohibited, the perpetrator will be punished with imprisonment for at least five years.
 - (5) If the subject of the crime referred to in paragraph (3) of this article is a large quantity of firearms, ammunition or explosive substances, or firearms, ammunition or explosive substances that are prohibited to citizens, the perpetrator will be punished with imprisonment for at least five years.
 - (6) If the crime from paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this article is committed in a group, gang or other criminal association, the perpetrator will be punished with imprisonment for at least eight years.
 - (7) If the subject of the crime referred to in paragraph (1) of this article is a large quantity of explosive substances intended for permitted entertainment, ceremonial and other activities, the perpetrator will be punished with a fine or imprisonment for up to three years.
 - (8) If the crime from this article is committed by a legal entity, it will be punished with a fine.

- **Counterfeiting firearms (Article 396-a)**
 - (1) Whosoever falsifies marks of firearms by deleting, destroying or changing the marks of the firearms and parts of the firearms, or does not stamp and mark the firearms, its parts, components and ammunition, shall be sentenced to imprisonment of one to ten years;
 - (2) If the crime referred to in this Article is committed by a legal entity, it shall be fined.
- Based on a UNODC report on the harmonisation of the Criminal Code with the Firearms Protocol, a working group was established to work on the amendments to the Criminal Code. They finalized their work and the amendments to the Criminal Code were adopted in September 2023.

1.4 Compliance with UN Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance with the UN's Firearms Protocol?

- No answer was provided.

1.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions: *Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial for the activities in the achievement of this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?*

- After the adoption of the new Law on Explosives for Civil Use, it would be necessary to develop a software for tracing explosives;
- A training of employees from the Department of Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Substances, security agencies and detective activity for supervision over the Law on Explosive Substances;
- Technical assistance for categorization of previously registered weapons, commercial explosives and pyrotechnics;
- Implementation of a campaign for the voluntary surrender and legalization of weapons, after the Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons enters into force;
- Implementation of a campaign to raise awareness regarding the deactivation of weapons.
- .
- Expert and technical support to determine the harmonisation between the Law on Weapons and the Law on Examining and Stamping, i.e., Marking of Firearms and Ammunition;
- Training for determining compliance with security measures at warehouses for explosive substances.

TIRANA

1.1 Laws and by-laws regulating arms control, and level of harmonization reported

Guiding questions:

What are the laws and bylaws regulating arms control?

What is the level of harmonization of each of the laws with the EU Acquis?

- **Law No. 152/2020, dated 17/12/2020** “On some addenda and amendments to the Law No. 74/2014 On Weapons”;
- **Law No. 61/2016** “On proclaiming the hunting moratorium”;
- **Law No. 60/2022** “On proclaiming the hunting moratorium”;
- **Law No. 6/2014** “On the ratification of The Arms Trade Treaty”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 50, dated 06/02/2019**, “On the approval of the Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives Control Strategy 2019-2024 and its Action Plan 2019-2021”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 754, dated 09/12/2021** “On the approval of the Action Plan 2022–2024 of the Small Arms, Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Explosives Control Strategy 2019–2024”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 269, dated 12/05/2021**, “On some amendments and addenda to the DCM No. 94, dated 04/02/2015, On the procedures with weapons, in the cases of declaration of their owner’s death, declaration of legal winding up of weapons related business, study purposes, weapon or its document/authorisation loss or theft”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 289, dated 19/05/2021** “On some amendments and addenda to the DCM No. 95, dated 04/02/2015, On the procedures of assessment of life-threatening risk and granting of special authorization for weapon possession”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 270, dated 12/05/2021**, “On some amendments and addenda to the DCM No. 96, dated 04/02/2015, On establishing the rules and procedures for the declaration, conservation, registration and deactivation of collectible arms”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 271, dated 12/05/2021** “On some amendments and addenda to the DCM No. 275 dated 01/04/2015, On approval of the regulation on conditions and rules for the safety of weapons”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 292, dated 08/04/2015** “On determining the rules for the development and administration of weapons register” (repealed);
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 272, dated 12/05/2021**, “On some amendments and addenda to the DCM No. 348, dated 29/04/2015, On the procedures of entry/exit, sealing of firearms, and registering of Albanian and foreign citizens with firearms of categories “B” and “C””;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 462, dated 30/07/2021** “On some amendments and addenda to the DCM No. 421, dated 13/05/2015, On the procedures of processing the complaints, documentation, deadlines of processing and special licensing criteria on weapon eligible activities”;
- **Joint Instruction No. 88, dated 10/03/2015**, of the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Health, “On the examinations and content of medical report, for firearms activities”;
- **Joint Instruction No. 90, dated 10/03/2015**, of the Minister of Interior, Minister of Defence and the General Prosecutor’s Office, “On the detailed procedures and rules of handling firearms as material evidence”;
- **Instruction No. 262, dated 25/05/2015** of the Minister of Interior, “On the procedures for granting/revoking the certificate of theoretic and practical skills for firearms, its format and the procedures for certification of the Technical Supervisor on weapon eligible activities for the program of the theoretic and practice course for firearms and conditions of the premises where this programme takes place”;
- **Instruction No. 277, dated 29/05/2015**, “On the procedures, documentation and deadlines of processing for authorization of natural persons and legal entities, register format for firearms for entities licensed in firearms activities, the rules, procedures and the form to be compiled at the time of the test firing and administration of the cartridge in a data bank”, as amended;

- **Joint Instruction No. 264/1, dated 29/06/2015**, of the Minister of Interior and Minister of Finance “On the action, criteria and procedures for the financial fees of weapon eligible activities”, etc.;
- **Order No. 417, dated 02/05/2018**, of the General Director of State Police, “On the form and content of reliability certificate”;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 31, dated 22/01/2020** “On the organisation, composition, functioning and status of the State Export Control Authority, determining the deadlines, manner and procedure of information exchange and receipt of feedback from other institutions involved in international transfer of controlled goods, as well as on determining the procedures for issuing guarantees and conducting the state control”;
- **Law No. 152/2020, dated 17/12/2020 “On some addenda and amendments to the Law No. 74/2014 On weapons”**, is **partly harmonized with the Council Directive 91/477/EEC**, dated 18 June 1991, “On control of the acquisition and possession of weapons”, CELEX number: 31991L0477, Official Journal of the European Union, L Series, no. 256, dated 13/09/1991, p. 51-58, as amended by Directive 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017.
 - In the framework of aligning the national legislation with the EU Acquis, while discussing the draft-law, the working group identified as a problem the issue of international transfer of firearms, which if regulated by this draft-law, would lead to implementation problems among the two responsible authorities, the General Directorate of State Police and the State Export Control Authority respectively.
 - Therefore, the best option was for the Regulation No. 258/2012 of the EU to be partly harmonized by means of this law and its majority to be transposed into a special draft-law “On international transfer of firearms”, which will be drafted and jointly proposed by the Minister of Defence and Minister of Interior at a later stage.
- **Law no. 46/2018, dated 23/07/2018** “On state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual use”.
 - **This law is partly harmonized with the Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009** of 5 May 2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items, as amended. CELEX Number 32009R0428, Official Journal of the European Union, L series, no. 134, dated 29/05/2009, p. 1–269.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 91, dated 27/02/2019** “On the approval of the updated list of military goods and of the list of dual-use goods and technologies, which are subject to state control over imports-exports”,
 - **This Decision is partly harmonized with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/2268** of 26 September 2017 amending and supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items, CELEX number 32017R2268; Official Journal of the European Union; L series, no. 334, dated 15/12/2017, p. 1–252.
 - **This Decision is fully harmonized with “Common Military List of the European Union**, adopted by the Council on 26 February 2018 (equipment covered by Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment) (CFSP)(2017/C 097/01), CELEX Number 52017XG0328 (01; Official Journal of the European Union; C 97, 28/03/2017, p. 1–33.”
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 304, dated 25/03/2009** “On setting up the procedures for conducting expertise and control by the State Export Control Authority”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 305, dated 25/03/2009** “On establishing the release procedures of the legal documents for quality assurance of the state control over the activity of import-export of military goods and technologies and goods of dual use”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 604, dated 28/08/2003** "On approving in principle the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports", harmonized with the previous European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports;
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 658, dated 29/07/2015** “On determining the procedures for issuing licences for weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair”.
- **Law No. 74/2021** “On making available on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses”. This law enables the approximation of the European Union legislation, precisely of the Directive 2014/28/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses (recast).

- **Law No. 73/2021** “On making available on the market and supervision of pyrotechnic articles”. This law enables the approximation of the European Union legislation, precisely of the Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles (recast).
 - Apart from aiming to transpose the Acquis Communautaire in the above-mentioned areas, the focus of these two laws shall be improving the safety conditions during the processes of import, export, manufacturing and storage of these articles, improving the safety procedures for the personnel that will be engaged during the handling of these articles, as well as supervising the domestic market for such articles.
- **Order of the Minister of Interior No. 666, dated 18/12/2018** “On organizing the work for the analysis of the European Union Acquis, in framework of the “Screening” process for Chapter 24 “Justice, Freedom and Security”, is being implemented, which has been amended by Order No. 145, dated 31/01/2019 “On some amendments to Order No. 666, dated 18/12/2018, On organizing the work for the screening analysis”, followed by a complete analysis of the compliance with the EU legislation on weapons.
- **Order of the General Director of the State Police No. 115, dated 25/01/2019** of the General Directorate of State Police “On organizing the work for the legislation approximation process in the framework of the European integration process”, is being implemented.
- **Law No. 75/2014** “On Private Physical Security Service”.
 - Update: Currently, the draft-law “On some addenda and amendments to Law No. 75/2014 On Private Physical Security Service”, is in process of adoption at the Parliament.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 839/2015** “On approving the regulation related to the use of firearms”.
- **Law No. 8/2020** “On prison officers”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 471/2009** “On approving the types of weapons, tools and their manner of use from the prison officers”.
- **Order No. 5230/1, dated 24/08/2009** “On approving the norms to meet the needs of the prison officers for weaponry and ammunitions”.
- **Order No. 6596/1, dated 24/08/2009** “On approving the tools and equipment used by the prison officers”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 31, dated 22/01/2020** “On the organisation, composition, functioning and status of the State Export Control Authority, determining the deadlines, manner and procedure of information exchange and receipt of feedback from other institutions involved in international transfer of controlled goods, as well as on determining the procedures for issuing guarantees and conducting the state control”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 462, dated 03/07/2021** “On some amendments and addenda to DCM No. 421, dated 13/05/2015 On the procedures of processing the complaints, documentation, deadlines of processing and special licensing criteria on weapon eligible activities.”
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 754, dated 09/12/2021** “On the approval of the Action Plan 2022–2024 of the Small Arms, Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Explosives Control Strategy 2019–2024”;
 - Instruction of the Minister of Interior No. 386, dated 23/11/2021, “On the procedures, documentation and deadlines of processing for authorization of natural persons and legal entities, register format for firearms and ammunition for entities licensed in firearms activities, the rules, procedures and the form to be compiled at the time of the test firing and administration of the cartridge in a data bank.”
- **Order of the General Director of the State Police “On approving the certification procedures and format of the certificate of the Technical Supervisor on weapon eligible activities.”**
- **Order of the General Director of the State Police No. 1214, dated 06/12/2021** “Standard operating procedures in cases of detection of weapons/ammunition/explosives that pose significant risks towards safety and security”.
- **Instruction No. 334, dated 28/10/2021** “On some amendments and addenda to the Instruction of the Minister of Interior No. 262, dated 25/05/2015 On the procedures for granting/revoking the certificate of theoretic and practical skills for firearms, its format and the procedures for certification of the Technical Supervisor on weapon eligible activities for the program of the theoretic and practice course for firearms and conditions of the premises where this programme takes place”.
- **Order No. 367, dated 18/11/2021** “On the composition, tasks and method of operation of the commission for granting entities with licence/authorisation on weapon eligible activities”.

- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 668, dated 10/11/2021** “On the approval of the list of military goods and of the list of dual-use items and technologies, which are subject to state control of international transfers”. This decision is partly harmonized with Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items, and is fully harmonized with the “Common Military List of the European Union”, adopted by the Council on 17 February 2020 (Equipment covered by Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment).
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 348, dated 26/05/2022** “Regulation on the standards and techniques of firearms and their essential components deactivation”. SEESAC conducted a gap analysis and an assessment of the degree of harmonization of the legal act on firearms deactivation in Albania with the relevant EU regulatory framework. This draft document partly aligns with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/337 of 5 March 2018 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 323, dated 18/05/2022** “On determining the rules for the establishment, access, functioning and administration of the online register of firearms, essential components and ammunitions”.
- **Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 127, dated 02/03/2022** on “Group characteristics, types and technical parameters of cold weapons, whose possession by citizens is subject to an authorization issued by the competent body”.

The following acts are in process of adoption during the reporting period:

- **Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers** setting out the appropriate amendments to DCM No. 658, dated 29/07/2015, “On determining the procedures for issuing licences for weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair”.
- **Draft Joint Instruction** of the Minister of Interior and Minister of Finance and Economy, “On some amendments to the Joint Instruction on the amount, criteria and procedures for the financial fees of weapon eligible activities.”
- **Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers** “On the procedures, conditions, criteria, deadlines, validity and formats on the issuance, revocation and suspension of licences and authorizations for the production, import, export and transit of explosives.”
- **Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers** “On the special licensing and authorization conditions, accompanying documents submitted to be equipped with a license or authorization, license and authorization validity term, processing and decision-making procedures and their deadlines, as well as the revocation/suspension procedures of licences and authorizations for the production, import, export and transit of pyrotechnic articles.”
- **Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers** “On an amendment to the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 675, dated 28/09/2016, On the approval of rules and procedures to establish the tracing and identification system of explosives for civil use”.
- **Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers** “On determining the procedures for granting the authorization to transfer, store and dispose pyrotechnic articles.”
- **Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers** “On defining the conditions and criteria, as well as the review and decision-making procedures, their templates, and deadlines for granting the authorization on the storage, transfer and disposal of explosives for civil use.”
- **Regulation** “On the conditions and criteria to use and store pyrotechnical articles for retail sale.” SEESAC has provided advisory support to the Ministry of Interior regarding the content of this legal act in order to have an as effective as possible implementation of the law 74/2021 “On civil use of explosives, pyrotechnic compositions and fireworks”.
- **Order of the Minister of Defence** “On the general regulation on the safety measures aiming to protect the lives and health of people and their property during the activity of production and transfer of pyrotechnic articles.”
- **Joint Instruction** of the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy “On the obligations and procedures of economic operators to implement the safety measures aiming to protect the lives and health of people and their property during the activity of production and transfer of explosives for civil use;”

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis

Guiding question:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to harmonization of the national legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- **No activities** have been undertaken with regards to the **harmonization of the national legal framework** on arms control with the EU Acquis;
 - With regards to the establishment of the working group to prepare the draft-law “On firearms protocol”, which fully transposes Regulation (EU) No. 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 implementing Article 10 of the United Nations’ Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UN Firearms Protocol), work has been suspended based on the reporting provided by the European Commission experts during the coordination meetings on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans, stating that EU is reworking this Regulation. Considering that the drafting of this law will be directly affected by the amendments to Regulation (EU) No. 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the deadline for its drafting shall be postponed until the adoption of amendments to Regulation (EU) No. 258/2012.

1.3 Accession, signature or ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

Has the jurisdiction accessed, signed or ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol?

Is 1) illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 2) illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition 3) falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms defined as criminal offence in your criminal code?

- Yes. By means of **Law No. 6/2014** “On the ratification of “The Arms Trade Treaty”, Albania has ratified the Arms Trade Treaty. By means of Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 50, dated 06/02/2019, the “Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives Control Strategy 2019-2024 and its Action Plan 2019-2021” have been approved. The inter-institutional SALW Commission, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Interior, has been established.
- **Law No. 9838, dated 10/12/2007** “On the adherence to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”.
- Yes, illegal possession and manufacture of weapons, explosive weapons and ammunitions is defined in the Criminal Code:
 - Article 278/a on Firearms and ammunition trafficking.
 - Falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms is provided for by Article 278 in its last paragraph.
 - Provisions of the Criminal Code on the illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts and ammunitions: Article 278/a of Law No. 144/2013 On some addenda and amendments to the Law No. 7895, dated 27/01/1995 “Criminal Code”, as amended, has been changed to include the following criminal offence: “Illegal possession and manufacture of military weapons and ammunitions, as well as their components and ammunitions”.
- Article 278 of the Criminal Code entitled “Illegal possession and manufacture of weapons, explosive weapons and ammunitions”, in its eight paragraphs stipulates as follows:
 - paragraph five “Manufacturing, sales, purchase, provision for purchase, trade and transport of military weapons and ammunitions, explosives, explosive weapons without the permission of the competent State bodies shall be punishable by five to ten years of imprisonment;”

- paragraph six provides for this same offence of paragraph five, but in aggravated conditions like “...when committed in large quantities, more than once or has led to serious consequences, shall be punishable by seven to fifteen years of imprisonment”; whereas paragraph eight provides for the “Falsifying or deletion, illegal displacement or alteration of marks on military weapons and ammunitions”, which shall be punishable by one to five years of imprisonment.
- paragraph eight stipulates that the “Falsifying or deletion, illegal displacement or alteration of marks on military weapons and ammunitions,” shall be punishable by one to five years of imprisonment. By means of Law No. 44/2019 “On some additions and amendments to the Criminal Code”, entered into force on 10/09/2019, the first paragraph of Article 278 of the Criminal Code was amended, stipulating a more severe penalty as well as the commission of this offence under qualifying circumstances.
- Article 278/a of the Criminal Code entitled “Trafficking of firearms and ammunitions”:
 - first paragraph stipulates that “Importing, exporting, transiting and trading of military weapons and ammunition shall be punishable by one to five years of imprisonment”; whereas in its second paragraph it stipulates the same offence committed in aggravated circumstances like “...when committed in collaboration or more than once or has led to serious consequences shall be punishable by ten to twenty years of imprisonment”.
 - the second paragraph stipulates the same offence committed in aggravated circumstances, such as “...when committed in collaboration or more than once or has led to serious consequences shall be punishable by ten to twenty years of imprisonment.”

Article 278/a has been amended by means of Law No. 144/2013 “On some addenda and amendments to the Law No. 7895, dated 27/01/1995 “Criminal Code”, as amended”, in order to include the following text: “The import, export, transit and trade of military weapons and ammunition, or their components in violation to the law”.

1.4 Compliance with UN Firearms Protocol

Guiding questions:

What activities were initiated/undertaken during the reporting period to ensure compliance with the UN’s Firearms Protocol?

- UNODC has conducted a **gap analysis of the Criminal Code**, more specifically of its provisions on weapon related criminal offences in order to identify the needs for harmonizing the Criminal Code with the provisions of the UN Firearms Protocol. The gap analysis was presented to the Ministry of Justice and to the working group for revising the Criminal Code. The Ministry of Justice has shared the first draft of the General Part of the Criminal Code for purposes of inter-institutional consultation.

1.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial for the activities in the achievement of this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?

- Need for technical assistance in analysing the legal and institutional framework for the drafting of the law on explosive precursors;
- Conducting risk assessments for each transfer. For each issued licence, pursuant to Article 12 of Law No. 46/2018, Albanian State Export Control Authority (AKSHE) shall carry out a risk analysis before deciding on issuing a licence;
- Conducting post shipment verifications. Each entity equipped with a licence by AKSHE shall be legally obliged to submit the delivery verification certificate (DVC) and to state the exporting country. Practically, all licences issued by AKSHE and executed contain a DVC;
- Such needs have been expressed during the local and regional coordination meetings on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans;



- SEESAC has provided its support to finance the publication of the annual report, which is being prepared by AKSHE.

ROADMAP GOAL 2

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

<p>Roadmap Overall Targets:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms, by sex and age resulting in periodic regional FAE risk analysis and threat assessments; 2. Increase analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis; 3. Ensure exchange of operational and strategic information, data, intelligence, as well as evidence with Europol, Frontex and Eurojust; 4. Institutionalize systematic collection of criminal justice data across the Criminal Justice Sector (at the level of Police and Customs, Prosecutors service, Court Service, Correctional and Penitentiary Services); 5. Introduction of mandatory feedback exchange for all WB beneficiaries enabling improvement of proactive investigations at national, regional and international level; 6. Ensure that every FAE recovered or seized is immediately traced automatically (domestically and internationally); 7. All Police services of the Western Balkans connected and regularly input their data on lost and stolen firearms to INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records, Tracing Management System (iARMS); 8. Fully integrate gender and age concerns in SALW/firearms control policies and ensure meaningful participation of women in SALW/firearms control.
<p>Progress information on Goal 2 Overall Targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities and of the SALW control strategy; 2. Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data; 3. Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control; 4. Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point; 5. Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA; 6. Access to and use of iArms; 7. Participation in the Joint Action Day; 8. Domestic and international tracing; 9. Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory; 10. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.

Progress information on Goal 2 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

2.1 - Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities, and of the SALW control strategy

Guiding questions:

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how?

Is there a valid SALW Strategy in place? If so, is it based on sex and age disaggregated data?

- At the Government’s session, held on 13 June 2019, Serbia adopted the Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control for the period 2019–2024 and the Action Plan for the period 2019–2020. The Strategy was adopted for the purpose of harmonization with the Roadmap. Due to the ongoing organizational and personnel changes in competent authorities, the procedure for the appointment of a new National Coordinator for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons has been initiated, as well as the procedure for the amendment of the Decision on the establishment of the Council for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (*The Official Gazette*, No. 76/20) and the Decisions on the Establishment of the Special Working Group for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Strategy for the period 2019–2024.
- **A Special Working Group was established by the Decision of the Minister** number 9261/22-39 of 30 December 2022 to prepare the **Action Plan 2023–2024** for the implementation of Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control for the period 2019–2024. Furthermore, the consultation process on the e-Konsultacije platform (Eng. e-consultations) has been completed, and preparations for a public hearing are underway.
- Serbia submitted to SEESAC **the 9th Narrative Progress Report on the Implementation of the Roadmap**, which was integrated into the 9th Regional Narrative Progress Report on the Implementation of the Roadmap. Following the 9th Narrative Progress Report and following the organization of the 7th Local Coordination Meeting, the delegation of Serbia, took part in the 9th Regional Coordination Meeting, which was held on 4–5 July 2023, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and 17th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions which on 6 July 2023.
- Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Assembly, participated in a **Regional High-Level Meeting “Enhancing parliamentary awareness and action for more peaceful and sustainably developed societies - implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2023”** organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), SEESAC and the Parliament of Albania in Tirana in the period 21–23 June 2023.
- In March 2023, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior participated in the online meeting of the **Regional Steering Group on SALW**, where the latest information on progress, priorities and plans in the area of small arms and light weapons was discussed.
- Serbia’s representatives also participated in **the mid-term evaluation of the Roadmap implementation**, which was carried out to review the progress and identify the shortcomings in the first three years of the Roadmap implementation and give recommendations for the future. On 24 February 2023, the MoI representatives participated in an online meeting, at which SEESAC presented the key findings from the evaluation report.

2.2 Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data

Guiding questions:

Is data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms standardized and institutionalized? If yes, is the data disaggregated by sex and age?

Is collection of criminal justice data institutionalized?

- Law enforcement authorities, particularly the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of the Interior and courts, continuously collect firearms data. **Although each authority has a standardized data collection procedure, data collection is not fully standardized and institutionalized among law enforcement authorities.**
- Every year, the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office compiles a consolidated statistical report concerning the criminal offence of Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives under Article 348 of the Criminal Code. **The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office keeps records with reference to persons.**
- **Data collection in the Supreme Court of Cassation is not institutionalized** and certain data are not systematically collected. Instead, they are collected through appellate courts for those criminal offences for which there is a need. Basic and higher courts act as first instance courts for the criminal offence under Article 348 of the Criminal Code. Data processing is performed using “Mega Libra” system.

- Within the UNODC project “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking,” the third component relates to Strengthening the capacity to systematically collect, analyse and monitor criminal justice data on firearms across the Criminal Justice Sector for control policies and practices. The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office is expected to be the main implementing partner for this component. This component can contribute to the institutionalization of data collection within the criminal justice sector.
- **In the Ministry of the Interior, data collection on firearms is standardized.** The Mol keeps data on the age and sex of persons who commit firearms-related criminal offences, namely, a criminal offence under Article 348 - Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives or other criminal offence involving the use of firearms, data on the number of persons murdered or injured with firearms and a criminal offence under Article 347 - Making and Obtaining Weapons and Tools Intended for Commission of an Offence which stipulates that “whoever, with the aim of committing a criminal offence, makes, obtains or enables another to acquire weapons, ammunition, explosive substances or blasting and explosive agents, as well as the means required for their manufacturing or poison, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to five years”. Records are kept on all actions taken to control the legal acquiring, holding and carrying of weapons. Records on natural persons, legal entities and weapons are kept permanently. Within the Unified Information System (JIS) of the Ministry of the Interior, there is a centralized database called “Criminal Offences and Perpetrators,” which contains, among others, data on firearms-related criminal offences. Data on perpetrators and victims of these criminal offences can be sorted by gender and age (if there is such a request). Data on suicides, including data on suicides committed with the use of firearms, are uploaded monthly from the manual records of regional police directorates and consolidated in the Analytics Directorate within the General Police Directorate.
- **An efficient system of information exchange has been established between the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade** as an umbrella ministry in the field of export and import of weapons. If, in accordance with entrusted competencies, authorized officers of the Customs Administration who perform control of passenger and/or goods traffic detect illegal small arms and light weapons, they will seize them and issue a Certificate on Temporary Seized Goods and immediately, without delay, transfer them to the jurisdiction of the Mol.
- **The Ministry of Defence exchanges information** and other data on firearms with other competent government authorities through the **Military Security Agency and the Military Police**. Also, in the field of trade in arms and military equipment, the authorities of the Ministry of Defence actively cooperate with other competent government authorities in the process of issuing licenses for export and import of arms and military equipment.

2.3 Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender concerns and increase participation of women in SALW control implemented during the reporting period?

- **With reference to integrating gender and age concerns into SALW control policies and ensuring meaningful participation of women in SALW control**, the Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan for the period 2019–2020 defined a measure 5.4 “Integration of gender-based principles in the Action Plan implementation” which is further developed through 2 activities. The draft proposal of the Action Plan for the period 2023–2024 has preserved this measure and improved it with a total of 6 activities to be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and civil society organisations, including training for the members of the Council for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. On 6 April 2023, a meeting was held with UNDP representatives regarding future projects aimed at integrating gender concerns in the area of small arms and light weapons control.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point established and operational during the reporting period?

If yes, were there any activities during the reporting period that made the FFP fully operational?

- By the Decision of the Minister of the Interior of 19 August 2021, the Firearms Focal Point (FFP) was established as the Team for implementation, monitoring and exchange of all operational Information related to firearms and its tasks defined. The Firearms Focal Point is linked to seven databases, and it is expected to become fully operational in Q3 2023 after the adoption of FFP Standard Operating Procedure. In order to establish fully operational FFP, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior participated in:
 - a meeting on the current situation and progress in establishing the FFP and the standardization of firearms data collection at the EU level, which was held on 14–15 March 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting was organized by the European Commission/DG HOME, within the framework of the implementation of the 2020–2025 EU Action Plan on Firearms Trafficking, which defines specific activities for Southeast Europe. These activities are aimed at establishing a fully operational FFP, including skilled and trained FFP staff, as well as improved data collection on seized weapons. These activities are directly related to the implementation of operational activities under OAP EMPACT Firearms;
 - An expert visit to the National Ballistic Intelligence Service (NABIS), which was organised on 16–17 May 2023 in Birmingham, Great Britain, as a continuation of support to the FFP in the exchange of good practices and experiences; and
 - participated in the Annual Regional Workshop for Firearms Focal Points (FFPs), which was held on 23–25 May 2023, in Belgrade, Serbia, within the framework of the multi-beneficiary regional IPA project “Support for enhancing the fight against the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans”. The Workshop focused on drafting a regional threat assessment on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

2.5 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

Guiding question:

Was SIENA used in the exchange of firearm-related information with Europol?

- The Ministry of the Interior regularly exchanges operational information related to investigations conducted at the national, regional and international levels with all the countries in the Western Balkans, as well as feedback on the activities carried out. SEESAC provides continuous support to border and criminal police services in strengthening their capacities to combat trafficking in firearms through the development of standard operating procedures, training and equipment.
- Data on seized or found weapons, ammunition and explosives received through INTERPOL and Europol channels are duly forwarded to the competent authorities. Additionally, all inquiries from competent national authorities are forwarded in due time to Europol (AP Weapons and Explosives), relevant EU Member States and third parties – Europol operational partners and through the INTERPOL communication channel (I 24/7) to interested states.
- During the reporting period, there was a regular exchange of operational and strategic information in combating firearms trafficking through SIENA, both with Europol and EU Member States, as well as Europol's strategic and operational partners. **In the reporting period, a total of 301 messages were exchanged, 99 of which were sent and 202 received.**
- As for contributions, during the first half of 2023, Europol’s AP Weapons and Explosives accepted 12 contributions from the Serbian Police. Exchanged information related to seized weapons, persons found to be in illegal possession of weapons, and organized crime groups involved in illicit firearms trafficking and arms smuggling routes, as well as strategic information in the form of bulletins, early warnings, catalogues and other types of reports and products.

2.6 Access to and use of iArms

Guiding questions:

Does the jurisdiction have access to iARMS? If so, were regular contributions with information on lost and stolen firearms made during the reporting period?

- **During the reporting period, 10 requests were received, 7 of which were replied to, while 3 are pending.** Regular input of data on lost and missing weapons will be possible after linking and harmonizing the unique national database on lost and missing weapons with the iARMS database, after which the data will be automatically uploaded to this database. An interface that would enable linking databases is to be developed in cooperation with INTERPOL's General Secretariat. A total of 204 messages were exchanged through INTERPOL's secure channel I 24/7, 110 of which were received and 94 sent. Please note that, with the support of INTERPOL and UNODC, several training and workshops were held on handling the iARMS database. Regional iARMS "Train-the-Trainer" course, held in the period 6–10 February 2023 in Budva, Montenegro, was organized by INTERPOL, aiming to improve participants' skills in conducting training courses related to the analysis and use of evidence-based approaches in investigations of firearms trafficking and improve the use of the iARMS firearms database and their knowledge of firearms identification.

2.7 Participation in the Joint Action Day

Guiding question:

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in the jurisdiction? Did the jurisdiction participate in a JAD during the reporting period?

- The Border Police Directorate implements regular activities aimed at combating the smuggling of firearms, ammunition and explosives, and when it comes to international activities in the reporting period, it participated in an international action within the EMPACT Firearms JAD.
- Operational action 2.1 - CONVERSUS - In the period 20–24 February 2023, EMPACT Action Days were organised during the operational phase of the OA 2.1. - CONVERSUS. The international operational action CONVERSUS was carried out with the aim of suppressing the illegal production, possession, trade and carrying of convertible weapons and combating the threat of conversion of gas, start and signal weapons (convertible weapons) into firearms as well as the threat of conversion of ammunition for start and signal weapons into ammunition for firearms. The action was carried out both within the territory of Serbia, through increased control of persons, objects and vehicles, and at border crossing points, intending to find convertible weapons, firearms and ammunition, their components and parts. The Ministry of the Interior of and the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance participated in the implementation of this action.
- This international action involved the participation of a total of 687 border police officers and included checks/controls of 7,424 persons and 6,150 vehicles, as well as 102 searches of apartments and other premises. A total of 7 persons were deprived of their liberty due to the commission of firearms-related criminal offences. On that occasion, the following were seized: 4 pistols, 2 revolvers, 4 rifles, 2 sawed-off shotguns, 1 handmade pistol, 23 handmade revolvers, 9 handmade rifles, 15 convertible pistols, 5 hunting rifles, 4 hand grenades, 9 detonators, 105 pieces of ammunition for convertible weapons, 2,581 pieces of ammunition of different calibres for firearms, as well as a certain amount of drugs.
- A total of 20 investigations were launched against citizens for the criminal offences of Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives and Unlawful Production and Circulation of Narcotics. During the action, three border crossing points were under increased control. On that occasion, 249 police officers and members of the customs services were additionally engaged and performed 567 detailed inspections of persons and vehicles. However, no convertible or converted weapons were found. In the period 1 January – 28 February 2023, outside the action, 25 convertible pistols and 5 converted pistols were confiscated.
- In the period 3–8 April 2023 in Bulgaria, one police officer participated in operational action EMPACT Firearms OA 2.1 - CONVERSUS with the aim of collecting operational data to suppress illegal convertible weapons in the Western Balkans.

- Operational action 3.2 - ARMSTRONG – preparation for Joint Action Days, which should be organized in the period 7–11 November 2023, are underway.

2.8 Domestic and international tracing

Guiding question:

Was domestic and international tracing conducted for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized during the reporting period?

- On 28 May 2020, within the records on “Weapons in Legal Possession”, the application “Stolen and Missing Weapons” was launched in the Unique Information System (JIS) of the Ministry of the Interior to enable keeping records of missing and stolen weapons. As of then, all search requests related to missing and stolen weapons, as well as their revocations, have been carried out through these records. To improve it, it has developed a methodology, a user manual for the application “Stolen and Missing Weapons” (kradeno i nestalo oružje - KNO), a KNO software system and a user manual for working in the KNO software system. In November 2022, this application was upgraded to include data on found weapons and is now called “Stolen, Missing and Found Weapons”. **This database is linked to the Firearms Focal Point – FFP.**

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

Is your ballistic laboratory accredited? If no, have actions/steps been taken in this regard?

- The ballistics laboratory of the Ministry of the Interior is not accredited.** Serbia and UNDP have established cooperation aiming to achieve international standards and accreditation. With the aim of facilitating the accreditation process of the ballistic laboratory in accordance with ISO 17025, UNDP supported the following activities during the reporting period:
 - Development and performance of ballistic validation test in accordance with the ISO 17025, February 2023;
 - Inter-laboratory testing and a study visit to an accredited ballistic laboratory in Skopje, North Macedonia;
 - Completion of procedures and work instructions: a total of 24 work instructions and 35 forms, according to the action plan for the accreditation of the ballistic laboratory in accordance with the ISO 17025, May 2023;
 - Adaptation of one room for disassembly of ammunition and acquisition of resources and equipment necessary for the accreditation process: laser engraver, compressor, chamber for gas weapons, trigger grips, bullet speed meter, cabinets for temporary storage of traces, cabinets for weapons, first aid kit, gunner protection kit, bullet trap for air weapons, August 2023.
- According to the accreditation plan, **the target date for the ATS visit to the ballistic laboratory is October 2023, when accreditation is expected.**
- In 2019, the French Republic donated Mol the “Evofinder” ballistic identification system and a programme for the “Traffic” database of illegal weapons, and **during the reporting period the following activities were implemented:**
 - Meeting of the working group to support the “Evofinder” system, drafting of the “Evofinder” manual, June 2023;
 - There are 947 cartridge cases in the system, 437 of which are questioned cartridge cases and 510 test cartridge cases; also, there are 390 bullets in the system, 46 of which are questioned bullets and 344 test bullets;
 - A total of 702 pieces of weapons were entered in the “Traffic” database until 30 June 2023.

2.10 Investigation of firearm-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any steps undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes in the reporting period?

- In May 2023, as part of the implementation of the regional IPA project “Support for enhancing the fight against the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans”, one representative of the National Forensic Center and one representative of the Section for Operational Forensics of the Niš Police Directorate attended the workshop /training aimed at presenting the need for accreditation of CSI units, the need to develop standard operating procedures, evidence packaging and storing, and monitoring the chain of custody, familiarization with the essential concept of integrity and continuity of evidence and how to preserve it, as well as documenting evidence through various means of digital documentation (photo, video, 3D scan, and others).
- In the training organized by SEESAC, forensic experts presented, interpreted and clarified the ISO 17020 requirements which apply to documenting evidence at the crime scene, their storage and monitoring. In this context, the ILAC G19 document and the ENFSI best practice manual were also presented. The participants demonstrated how they document evidence and what digital methods they use in their respective jurisdictions. SEESAC forensic experts presented several different ways of digital documenting through case studies and discussed with the training participants the existence of both formal legal and material conditions for this way of documenting evidence in forensic units.
- A visit to the Idrizovo Police Academy was organized which included a practical exercise for the participants. There were simulations of three crime scenes where the participants demonstrated how they document, pack and store evidence. The representatives of the forensic units presented a simulated case on which they conducted an investigation and discussed different approaches and inconsistencies.
- In the period 1 January 2023 – 30 June 2023, a total of 1,372 pieces of weapons were marked and stamped on a “Zetalase” laser marking machine obtained through SEESAC.
- During the reporting period, the OSCE mission also started implementing a project related to strengthening the capacity of the Agency for Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition in the area of deactivation.

EUROJUST - The Cooperation Agreement with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST) was signed on 12 November 2019.

- In the period 1 January 2023 – 30 June 2023, the office of the Liaison Prosecutor for Serbia at EUROJUST registered 48 new cases. Out of the total number of assistance requests received and sent through EUROJUST in the first half of 2023, none concerned the criminal offence of *Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives*.
- In the first half of 2023, competent authorities participated in 9 coordination meetings. They mostly participated in the meetings related to the coordination of future activities in pending cases, consideration and analysis of the JIT results. During the reporting period, no new JITs were established, and three previously established JITs were active. Regular meetings were held to exchange information of importance to the government authorities of the states of JIT members.

2.11 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- The biggest challenge in achieving Goal 2 - By 2024, is to ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led - is the need for standardization and institutionalization of data kept by the competent government authorities.
- It is necessary to establish and standardize coordination between institutions to make data available to all relevant beneficiaries and to ensure that policy development is based on a broader understanding of the whole issue and factual situation in this field. Improvements are being made in the area of data collection on distribution and impact of small arms and light weapons/firearms, which would enable an easier and more accurate assessment of the situation in this area.
- It is necessary to establish effective information exchange between all law enforcement authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, prosecutor's offices, courts and the Customs Administration in the context of seizure of small arms and light weapons, filed charges and outcomes of court proceedings. This should also include the ministries in charge of trade, tourism, and telecommunication, as institutions responsible for issuing licenses for export and import of arms and military equipment.

PODGORICA

2.1 Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities, and of the SALW control strategy

Guiding questions:

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how?

Is there a valid SALW Strategy in place? If so, is it based on sex and age disaggregated data?

- Yes, the SALW Commission makes policy in this area, collects data and takes care of the implementation of measures and coordinates. Data collection of criminal justice data has improved. Tracing of all found or seized weapons, ammunition and explosives is ensured. The police is regularly entering data on lost and stolen weapons into Interpol's system, as well as in the Trace system. The SALW Commission implemented international commitments and prepared reports in accordance with the OSCE Document on SALW and the UNPoA Action Plan. In particular, the Commission collected data on the implementation of the Roadmap for the purposes of drafting the regional progress report. Montenegro submitted to SEESAC the **9th Roadmap Progress Report** which was integrated into the 9th Regional Roadmap Progress Report. The SALW Commission organized the **8th Local Coordination Meeting** on 26 July 2023.
- On 7 March 2023, representatives of Montenegro participated in the online annual meeting of the Regional Steering Group for SALW, with the aim of considering the activities concerning small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their key results achieved during the last year and adopted conclusions on the planned actions and priorities for 2023.
- Yes, SALW Control Strategy adopted, as well as the accompanying Action Plan 2019-2025. The Strategy is based on the analysis of data by gender and age.

2.2 Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data

Guiding questions:

Is data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms standardized and institutionalized? If yes, is the data disaggregated by sex and age?

Is collection of criminal justice data institutionalized?

- Data collection practices are non-standardized, and are sporadically used in policy development, the key data on SALW/firearms are often not available, and the coordination between institutions is not sufficiently established, all of which together prevents the development of policies based on facts and data. No concrete steps have been taken to collect gender-disaggregated data on the impact of SALW. However, part of the gender-disaggregated data is available through SEESAC's Armed Violence Monitoring Platform.
- No - data collection is not institutionalized.
- Continued activities of UNODC who has developed a baseline assessment of firearms data collection in the Western Balkans through its Global Firearms Programme (GFP). The assessment looks at the abilities of national institutions to collect and contribute data on firearms to the UN Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire on an annual basis.

2.3 Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender concerns and increase participation of women in SALW control implemented during the reporting period?

- Representatives of Montenegro are participating in the regional analysis conducted by SEESAC on the misuse of firearms in domestic violence and we are supporting the development of the practical tool for addressing risks related to the presence of firearms in domestic violence and the tool for gender-sensitive firearm license approval.
- On 4-6 April we participated in a focus group discussion with several police officers working on domestic violence and officers in charge of firearms licensing and women's organizations: NGO "Safe life Tuzi", NGO SOS Telephone for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić, NGO Sigurna ženska kuća, and Women's Rights Centre.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the **second meeting of the Regional Working Group for the Development of a Tool for Gender Sensitive Firearms License Approval** organized by SEESAC in Durres from 9 to 11 May. The regional meeting continued with the development of a tool for gender-sensitive firearms license approval which aims to ensure that the procedures for issuing firearms licenses are fully taking into account the issue of domestic violence, as well as other gender-related aspects concerning firearms, such as the link between firearms and men and especially young men's exposure to firearms-related violence. The development of this tool started in the first meeting of the Working Group held on 30 November and 1 December 2022 in Tirana, Albania.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the second meeting of the **Regional Working Group for the Prevention of the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence through Risk Assessment** organized by SEESAC in Durres from 23 to 25 May 2023. The meeting gathered representatives from departments dealing with domestic violence and the departments for analytics or statistics, from five Western Balkan jurisdictions.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point established and operational during the reporting period?

If yes, were there any activities during the reporting period that made the FFP fully operational?

- **Yes**, the Firearms Focal Point was established in Q1 of 2020 and consists of officers from several organizational units of the Police Administration who perform tasks and duties related to the national FFP from the aspect of their competencies.
- Tasks related to the national FFP cover the collection, analysis, distribution and exchange of data on firearms, and they include:
 - Data analysis and preparation of intelligence and strategic reports;
 - Preparation of statistical reports;
 - Checks of seized weapons;
 - Coordination of activities in relation to international projects and

- Submission of statistical reports and information based on data from the available records for the needs of the police, the Government and Europol's analytical projects.
- SEESAC has continued to support the operationalization of Firearms Focal Points, as key analytical units for support to investigations of firearms-related criminality, through advisory support, assessments and capacity building.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in SEESAC's 4-day **regional training on social media intelligence** in Belgrade, Serbia, on 21-24 March 2023. The training was organized for the firearms focal points from the Western Balkans Moldova and Ukraine. The training included practical exercises where operations were developed and implemented to address specific risks and intelligence-driven police products, such as problem profiles, case profiles, criminal market analyses and operational and strategic assessments.
- From 14-16 May, officers overseeing firearms-related investigations **visited the NABIS HQ**. The visit was an opportunity to show how NABIS supports the UK Firearms Focal Point (FFP) and the support they are providing in the development of our FFP. Various roles and responsibilities within NABIS were presented, from forensic and ballistic examination to firearms intelligence analysis and trend identification. The visit also included a tour of the NABIS laboratory, which allowed seeing the equipment and facilities of NABIS.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the **annual regional workshop for Firearms Focal Points (FFP)** in Belgrade on 23-25 May 2023. The workshop focused on the development of a regional threat assessment on small arms and light weapons (SALW). Sessions included statistical analysis and findings by jurisdictions based on questionnaires, methodology for regional threat assessment, geographic locations and trafficking routes within the Western Balkans, goods/types of weapons, involvement of organized crime and other actors, high-risk violent groups, modus operandi, conversion, hand grenades, ammunition and explosives, migrants and weapons, emerging threats and vulnerabilities, as well as recommendations based on the findings.

2.5 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

Guiding question:

Was SIENA used in the exchange of firearm-related information with Europol?

- Yes, the network application SIENA was used to exchange information with EUROPOL.

2.6 Access to and use of iArms

Guiding questions:

Does the jurisdiction have access to iARMS? If so, were regular contributions with information on lost and stolen firearms made during the reporting period?

- Yes, Montenegro has access to iARMS.

2.7 Participation in the Joint Action Day

Guiding question:

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in the jurisdiction? Did the jurisdiction participate in a JAD during the reporting period?

- Yes, the coordinator was appointed, but there were no activities in the reporting period in terms of Joint Action Days.

2.8 Domestic and international tracing

Guiding question:

Was domestic and international tracing conducted for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized during the reporting period?

- Yes, it was conducted.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

Is your ballistic laboratory accredited? If no, have actions/steps been taken in this regard?

- **No, ballistic laboratory accreditation activities are ongoing.** The EVOFINDER ballistic database system was provided through a donation, and the installation and training were completed. With the support of the OSCE mission, expert support was provided by the ballistic experts from the Forensic Centre in Skopje, whose ballistic laboratory is accredited, in order to validate the method in our ballistic laboratory.
- The “**Custody Chain, Crime Scene Investigations and the Forensic Laboratory in the Field of Operations and Investigations in Detection and Trafficking of Explosives Criminality**” project is being implemented. The completion of the project and the donation of equipment is scheduled for Q3 this year.
- Within the project, Crime Scene Investigation unit was equipped with the specialized equipment consisting of quadcopter, video borescopes, post-blast crime scene investigation kits, evidence vacuum sweeper and tamper-evident sealing tapes. Furthermore, all documents for the accreditation of a method of the Arson and Explosives Laboratory have been finalized. With respect to the Chemical Lab, the remaining equipment was delivered to the Lab, including laminar flow cabinet, orbital shaker and ultra-pure water system.

2.10 Investigation of firearm-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any steps undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes in the reporting period?

- **A capacity assessment of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit has been completed by SEESAC**, which created the basis for further capacity development support in terms of advisory support, trainings and equipment. These assessments resulted in a report with recommendations as well as an action plan for further preparation for ISO 17020 accreditation.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the **Regional Workshop on Digital Crime Scene Documenting and Establishing and Maintaining the Chain of Custody** from 9 to 11 May 2023 in Skopje, North Macedonia. The workshop strengthened the capacity of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units from the Western Balkans jurisdictions by broadening their understanding of crime scene investigation techniques, best practices in maintaining the chain of custody, and the use of digital photography.
- The four-day training of trainers to provide the Criminal Police with advanced expertise in firearms detection and the practical application of risk analysis methodologies took place in Podgorica from 27 to 30 June, equipping representatives from the Ministry of Interior with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address firearm trafficking and illicit possession. Moreover, the training aimed to enhance the operational capacities of law enforcement authorities, fostering closer collaboration among relevant stakeholders. The training was conducted by SEESAC based on the findings of the Needs Assessment of the capabilities of Montenegro's Criminal Police.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the regional meeting of criminal police representatives from the Western Balkans and Moldova, which was held in Skopje, North Macedonia, on 25-26 April 2023, and the discussion topics included challenges in combating firearms trafficking, including inter-institutional and international cooperation and information exchange, and results and recommendations of the needs assessment report of crime scene investigation units in South East Europe jurisdictions prepared by SEESAC were examined.

- During the first half of 2023, the Police Administration temporarily **seized 209 firearms, of which 66 were in illegal possession.**

2.11 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If yes, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes, challenges have been identified and support received.
- UNDP MNE – Projects approved within the Roadmap Trust Fund for SALW control in the Western Balkans
- Taking stock of the execution of the procurement of technical equipment, the preparation of instructions and trainings that were organized in the previous “Custody Chain” project, we applied for the next project which would fully round up the capacities of the Forensic Centre, when it comes to ballistics and explosives expert examination, to conduct further trainings and provide additional equipment for the criminal forensics, this time taking into account the fact that the entire complex process of examination should be multidisciplinary (including forensic examination for identification), because this is the only way to determine and prosecute a criminal offence related to firearms and explosives in a high-quality manner, and to have full insight into the work of the police and judicial authorities in conducting of criminal procedures.
- We are expecting the feedback for this project in Q3 this year.

PRISTINA

2.1 Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities, and of the SALW control strategy

Guiding questions:

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how?

Is there a valid SALW Strategy in place? If so, is it based on sex and age disaggregated data?

- The 9th Local Coordination Meeting on the SALW Roadmap, where it was presented the work, challenges and needs with regards to the Roadmap for the period July - December 2022.
 - The SALW Commission has organized 7 meetings, in which several issues have been addressed, as follows: The legislation, the fight against and investigation of SALW misuse cases, gender issue, awareness-raising, destruction and data collection;
 - The working group for the drafting of the National Strategy on SALW 2023-2027 was established at the end of June;
 - Joint meeting between the SALW Commissions of Kosovo* and Albania on cooperation opportunities.
 - Kosovo has hosted a 2-day meeting with Arquebus, in framework of the “Regisync” project, with regards to the registration of civilian firearms in the electronic system;
 - Capacity development of Crime Scene Investigation units. More specifically, experts have met with representatives of relevant institutions, such as the Forensics and Ballistic Laboratory and general police departments;

* 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.

- A 4-day training took place in Pristina, from May 30 - June 2, with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, on the necessary knowledge and capabilities to effectively combat the trafficking and illicit possession of firearms. Organized by SEESAC;
- Focus groups with women organizations, such as: Kosovo Women's Network, Centre for the Protection of Women and Children, Safe House, and Women's Centre in Gjilan. The purpose of the focus groups was discussing the main challenges in terms of preventing the misuse of firearms in domestic violence, documenting the numerous ways in which firearms affect the safety and well-being of women, as well as exchanging ideas on how to improve the institutional response and adequately address risks related to the presence of firearms in the context of domestic violence. Supported and organized by SEESAC.
- The final draft of the Strategy and Action Plan on SALW control 2023-2027 is being finalized and will be adopted this year. In addition, this draft is in line with the Regional Roadmap.

2.2 Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data

Guiding questions:

*Is data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms standardized and institutionalized? If yes, is the data disaggregated by sex and age?
Is collection of criminal justice data institutionalized?*

- Yes, It is partially standardized, but not under a single database and the sex is not specified.
 - In addition, the level of inter-institutional reporting has slightly increased, but it should be improved even more.
 - In June, two representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the meeting organized in Vienna on the issue of civilian firearms registration, in framework of the REGISYNC project.
- With regards to cases data exchange among the Kosovo Police, this is performed through two different systems that are interconnected. The Prosecution Office has a joint system with courts.

2.3 Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender concerns and increase participation of women in SALW control implemented during the reporting period?

- Efforts were made to include as many women as possible in the meetings of the working group on the implementation of the SALW Roadmap and therefore, progress was achieved.
- A regional meeting was organized, including with representatives from the Kosovo Police, with regards to the engagement and awareness of the civil society and gender spectrum in the prevention of SALW misuse.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

*Was a Firearms Focal Point established and operational during the reporting period?
If yes, were there any activities during the reporting period that made the FFP fully operational?*

- The FFP was established at the end of 2016. It was the first established FFP in the region and it is currently operational.
- Activities on daily data collection, arms tracing, periodic reports, meetings and trainings at national and international level are carried out;
 - Study visit on SALW (ALPC) in France - March 2023.

- Workshop organized by IPA on SOCTA and relevant questionnaires.
- Additional training program on EVOFINDER/TRAFFIC in Kosovo.
- Workshop on Evofinder and Traffic with the State Prosecution Office.
- Meetings on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for SALW control and on the ex-post evaluation of Law No. 05/L-134 "On legalization and surrender of weapons, ammunition and explosive devices".
- Information meetings to exchange information on several joint cases at international level.

2.5 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

Guiding question:

Was SIENA used in the exchange of firearm-related information with Europol?

- Information is regularly communicated and shared through the secure SIENA channel. By means of SIENA, we have registered 20 cases and 85 firearms have been sent for tracing. There has been a "positive" match for only one firearm. We have sent 24 firearms to be registered as stolen/lost.

2.6 Access to and use of iARMS

Guiding questions:

Does the jurisdiction have access to iARMS? If so, were regular contributions with information on lost and stolen firearms made during the reporting period?

- We do not have access to iARMS, but through UNMIK ILO we have frequently sent tracing requests for seized firearms. In addition, 29 firearms have been sent for registration as stolen/lost weapons.

2.7 Participation in the Joint Action Day

Guiding question:

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in the jurisdiction? Did the jurisdiction participate in a JAD during the reporting period?

- The JAD coordinator has been appointed. We participate in JAD and have cooperation with other countries in the region and beyond. During the firearms intelligence phase of the JAD 2023 operation, 24 firearms have been sent for tracing.

2.8 Domestic and international tracing

Guiding question:

Was domestic and international tracing conducted for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized during the reporting period?

- During the reporting period, we have sent 72 tracing requests, all of which resulted "negative". 85 tracing requests have been sent to Europol and 32 tracing requests have been sent to different NCBs (only 1 resulted "positive"). 4 tracing requests have been sent to eTrace-ATF, all of which resulted "negative". Domestic tracing was conducted for 80 firearms.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

Is your ballistic laboratory accredited? If no, have actions/steps been taken in this regard?

- The accredited methods are:
 - PRT-2.1 Physical examination, classification and identification of firearms and their components;
 - PRT-2.2 Physical examination, classification and identification of bullets/projectiles;
 - PRT-2.3 Physical examination, classification and identification of cartridge cases and bullets;
 - PRT-2.4 Physical examination, classification and identification of hunting ammunition cases and their components;
 - PRT-2.5 Microscopic comparison.
- Currently, the accreditation of such methods has expired. We are waiting for the external evaluators and the Accreditation Directorate to assess the renewal of the accreditation for an additional period of 4 years. We believe that such procedure will be completed by the end of the year and the accreditation will be renewed for four more years.

2.10 Investigation of firearm-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any steps undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes in the reporting period?

- Regional meetings in Sarajevo, 12-13 June 2023.
- Meeting in Belgrade - Workshop for Firearms Focal Points, 23-25 May.
- Meeting in Belgrade - Regional Training on Social Media Intelligence, organized by SEESAC on 21-24 March 2023.
- A 4-day training took place in Pristina, from May 30 to June 2, with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the necessary knowledge and capabilities to effectively combat the trafficking and illicit possession of firearms.

2.11 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- During this year, the Accreditation Directorate (AD) has encountered difficulties in selecting and recruiting external experts to audit/assess the fulfilment of technical and scientific conditions to renew the accreditation of working methods in the Ballistics Division. According to our information, AD has contacted and is in process of contracting external experts to assess the working methods of the Ballistics Division (by the Kosovo Forensic Agency - KFA).
 - It is necessary to organize activities that enhance the cooperation between the Police, Prosecution Office and courts in addressing SALW-related crimes. Such activities shall include relevant information meetings/trainings and cooperation practices in cases of SALW-related incidents.
 - A 2-day meeting has been scheduled between the MIA, Police and Prosecution Office facilitated by SEESAC. SEESAC provided support to the Kosovo Forensic Agency through full time engagement of two Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) Technicians, whose task was to reduce the backlog of unregistered weapon legalization requests in the IBIS System.
- We have requested and are waiting for support.

SARAJEVO

2.1 Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities, and of the SALW control strategy

Guiding questions:

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how?

Is there a valid SALW Strategy in place? If so, is it based on sex and age disaggregated data?

- The Coordination Board for Small Arms and Light Weapons reports annually to the Council of Ministers of BiH on its work. The last Report on the work of the CB SALW for 2022 was adopted at the 7th session of the CoM of BiH, on March 30, 2023. Members participated in all regional and international SALW-related meetings, as well as participating in workshops to increase knowledge about SALW. Also, the SALW Coordination Board organized the 9th local coordination meeting for the roadmap, which was held on June 15, 2023, in Sarajevo, representatives of the CB SALW participated in the 9th Regional coordination meeting for the roadmap held in Sarajevo, July 4-5, 2023, and 17th Regional meeting of SALW boards held on July 6, 2023, in Sarajevo.
- **SIPA** - Representatives of SIPA participate in the work of the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and at the international level they also take part in the Joint Committee of the European Firearms

Experts (EFE) and the South East European Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN), with the aim of discussing activities on the implementation of the Operational Action Plan between the European Union and the countries of South East Europe in the fight against illicit firearms trade, and exchanging operational data and knowledge, as well as planning joint activities. Also, representatives of this Agency participate in the projects Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina (HALT) and Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking (CIAT), within which police officers of this Agency took an active part.

- Yes, there is a valid SALW Strategy in place based on sex and age disaggregated data analysis.

2.2 Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data

Guiding questions:

Is data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms standardized and institutionalized? If yes, is the data disaggregated by sex and age?

Is collection of criminal justice data institutionalized?

- **Prosecutor's Office:** Statistical data are kept by type of criminal offence, not broken down by sex and age. The Prosecutor's Office uses the TCMS system, which contains relevant data.
- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** Data are collected through regular daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting. They're not classified by sex or age. The same will be done when a single reporting form is drawn up.
- **Border Police:** Data by sex and age for perpetrators of criminal offenses are standardized and statistically submitted monthly and periodically in prescribed excel forms.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** Regarding seized illegal firearms and ammunition, statistical data on the gender and age representation of persons from whom they were seized are kept within the Federal Police Administration, as well as data on whether the person is a returnee in the commission of criminal offenses.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** Data collection is institutionalized in the territory of Republika Srpska, and it is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. Weapons that have been licensed as owned are registered in Electronic Weapon Records that contain information about the weapons and their owners. Data can be sorted by gender and age. Data on illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition are not recorded electronically.
- **Brčko District Police:** Yes, but they are not disaggregated by gender and age.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Collection of data is standardized but it is not disaggregated by sex and age.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior:** No information was provided.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** No, data is not disaggregated by sex and age.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior:** Data collection is standardized, but data are not disaggregated by sex and age. No steps are currently being taken.
- **Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde Ministry of Interior:**
 - The collection of data on small arms is standardized and institutionalized, depending on the events in which the weapon appears, whether it has been confiscated, found and collected, and whether it appears through the commission of misdemeanours or criminal offenses. Also, for the small arms that are allowed to be kept in accordance with the applicable Law, there are data on registration, owners and other data. For each type of weapon, all available and necessary data are entered, each weapon owner must provide his/her data, regardless of gender, and these data are located in the records or databases, depending on the case in question.
- **Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior:** No, data is not disaggregated by sex and age. Consent was given to synchronized SALW data collection.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, data is disaggregated by sex and age.
- **Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior:** The personal identification number of each person contains data on gender and age, but it is not known whether the above is used in reporting. Weapons databases and civil status databases are not physically connected and interoperable.

- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** – No, data is not disaggregated by sex and age.

2.3 Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender concerns and increase participation of women in SALW control implemented during the reporting period?

- **Country level (Source: Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board; Directorate for coordination of police bodies BiH; Indirect Taxation Authority, etc.):**
 - Our representatives participate in a regional analysis conducted by SEESAC on the misuse of firearms in domestic violence and we support the development of a practical tool to address the risks related to the presence of firearms in domestic violence and a tool for gender-sensitive firearms license approval. Furthermore, in the period March 21-23, 2023, we participated in a focus group discussion involving several police officers dealing with domestic violence and officers in charge of issuing a gun license, as well as women's organizations: Medica Zenica, Foundation Infohouse, Foundation of Local Democracy, Foundation Lara Bjeljina, and United Women Banja Luka. The goal of focus group meetings was to discuss the main challenges in preventing the misuse of firearms in domestic violence, document the multiple ways in which firearms affect women's safety and well-being, and exchange ideas on how to enhance institutional response and adequately address risks related to the presence of firearms in the domestic violence context.
 - Representatives of BiH participated in the second meeting of the Regional Working Group for the development of tools for issuing licenses for the use of firearms in accordance with gender differences organized by SEESAC in Durres in the period May 9-11. The regional event continued with the development of a gender-sensitive firearms licensing tool that aims to ensure that firearms licensing procedures take full account of the issue of domestic violence, as well as other gender-related aspects related to firearms, such as the relationship between firearms and men and in particular young men's exposure to gun violence. The development of this tool was started during the first Working Group meeting held on November 30th and December 1st, 2022, in Tirana, Albania.
 - Representatives of BiH participated in the second meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Prevention of the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence through Risk Assessment organized by SEESAC, in Drač, from 23rd to 25th of May 2023. The meeting brought together representatives from the departments dealing with domestic violence and the department of analytics or statistics, from the jurisdictions of the Western Balkans.
 - **ITA** – In 2023, one training was conducted on the topic of promoting gender equality (February 2023), which was attended by 20 employees of the Administration. A bilateral meeting was held in March 2023 with representatives of the Customs Administration of Croatia to exchange information on legislation and best practices. Among other things, the activities implemented by the Administration in the field of prevention of discrimination and promotion of gender equality were presented.
 - **DCPB** – There were no activities or training of police officers of the Directorate related to solving problems related to gender equality and increasing the participation of women in the control of small arms and light weapons. (DCPB)
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior**
Yes, in the reporting period there was an increase in the number of female police officers employed in the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the USC, and an increase in the number of female police officers who participated in the control of small arms and light weapons, as well as a certain number of female employees working in administrative jobs related to gun control.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior**
Yes. Women's NGOs are involved.
- **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior**

Thematic meetings and workshops on gender equality and women's participation in small arms and light weapons control

- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior**

Twenty-four female police officers participated in professional training – training for the handling and maintenance of the VHS-K2 and AK 47 automatic rifle, and the semi-automatic self-loading machine gun HS and ČZ 75b conducted by the Department for Training and Logistical Support of the Ministry of the Interior of the C10.

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency, Border police BiH, Brcko District Police, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior** responded that no such activities were organized.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Federal Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point established and operational during the reporting period?

If yes, were there any activities during the reporting period that made the FFP fully operational?

- **No FFP has yet been established.** The working group for the formation of FFP completed the task, the report was adopted. 7 meetings were held. The report is in process and will be sent to the Council of Ministers of BiH. The meeting of the **Working Group** organized in Sarajevo on February 29, 2023 was a discussion on modalities and the next steps regarding the establishment of the FFP.
- Representatives of BiH participated in SEESAC's four-day training on regional social media intelligence (SOCMINT) in Belgrade, Serbia, 21-24 March 2023. The aim of the training was to strengthen strategic and operational capacities to conduct firearms investigations. During the training, practical exercises were used to develop and conduct operations to address specific risks and intelligence-driven police products, such as problem profiles, case profiles, criminal market analyses, and operational and strategic assessments.
- Representatives of BiH participated in the annual regional Firearms Focal Points (FFP) workshop held in Belgrade on May 23-25, 2023. The workshop focused on the development of a regional assessment of threats from small arms and light weapons.
- Representatives of BiH attended the **Workshop on Intelligence Collection of the Firearms Focal Points in support of EMPACT Joint Action Days** in Budva, Montenegro, from 5th to 6th of April 2023. The meeting was organized by SEESAC in cooperation with the NABIS and EMPACT FIREARMS. The Workshop aimed to devise an intelligence collection plan (ICP) ahead of SEE JAD 2023. This is part of the systematic process used by intelligence services to meet intelligence requirements through tasking all available resources to gather and provide pertinent information within a required time limit.

2.5 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

Guiding question:

Was SIENA used in the exchange of firearm-related information with Europol?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** As part of the work, information is regularly exchanged through EUROPOL, i.e., all types of assistance offered by EUROPOL are used. Communication and exchange of information were achieved, i.e., operational cooperation in specific investigative cases related to the unauthorized trade of firearms and drugs.
- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies:** In its regular work until June 14, 2023, the Directorate (Department for Cooperation with Europol) used the SIENA secure communication system for the exchange of information

related to firearms. As of the stated date, the aforementioned system is operational and functional within the National Common Contact Point at Trg BiH no. 1.

- **Indirect Taxation Authority:** A National Joint Contact Point for cooperation with Europol has been established at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A secure line of communication was established on June 1st, 2023, with the National Joint Contact Point located in the Regulatory Enforcement Sector, Intelligence Department, Operations Group. All communication between the Indirect Taxation Authority and the Joint Contact Point takes place through the protected line. Indirect Taxation Directorate does not have its representative in the National Common Contact Point for Cooperation with Europol, but the Indirect Taxation Directorate is represented by the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies on the basis of the Representation Agreement signed by the Indirect Taxation Directorate and the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** The Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska uses the SIENA application for the exchange of information on firearms with EUROPOL through the National/Joint Contact Point of BiH for cooperation with Europol, which started working on June 14th, 2023.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** The Federal Police Administration exchanged information with Europol daily (on a daily basis) until June 14, 2023, through the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH. From June 14, 2023, the exchange of information is carried out through the National/Joint Contact Point for Cooperation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with Europol.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior** reported the use of SIENA during the reporting period.
- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported no use of SIENA during the reporting period.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

2.6 Access to and use of iArms

Guiding questions:

Does the jurisdiction have access to iARMS? If so, were regular contributions with information on lost and stolen firearms made during the reporting period?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** The State Investigation and Protection Agency has signed an agreement with the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies-NCB INTERPOL Sarajevo, which refers to the use of the "iARMS" database, resulting in certain obligations related to all police officers of the Agency. The Interpol Firearms program has trained three SIPA police officers to work on data entry in the specified database. As part of the "Caliber" project in which this Agency participated, in the form of a donation, Interpol donated two desktops that will be deployed at the Agency's headquarters, with the aim of using the iARMS database. During the Reporting period, one SIPA police officer was trained to work on this database. Police officers did not provide information on lost and stolen firearms during the reporting period, since there was no temporary confiscation of items.
- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies:** Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH, the Section of the NCB INTERPOL Sarajevo has access to the iARMS database and uses this database in accordance with its competence. Access to this database is available to all police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Currently, all police agencies have signed the Agreement on the Use of iARMS except for one police agency with which the signing of the Agreement is in progress. During the reporting period, the Directorate processed several cases/requests related to firearms - a total of 61 new cases were opened, of which:
 - 45 new cases opened at the request of Interpol member states regarding illegal arms trade;
 - 5 new cases opened at the request of domestic law enforcement agencies; and
 - 11 new cases opened at the request of Europol Member States.

During the reporting period, the Directorate, INTERPOL Sarajevo NCB, received four Trace Requests from other Interpol Member States through the iARMS application.

- **Indirect Taxation Authority:** The ITA does not have direct access to iARMS since it has not signed a specific memorandum with the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies for access to this database, which should certainly be considered as an option in the coming period.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** The Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska does not have access to iARMS.
- **Brcko District Police:** Has access to iARMS and provides data on a regular basis.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** The Federal Police Administration has access to the iARMS database, while the delivery of information related to weapons is under the direct jurisdiction of the cantonal Mols.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes. The data are provided on a regular basis.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, but no data was provided in this period.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** Yes, but there was no input of data on lost and stolen firearms in the i-ARMS information system.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior** stated that they do not have access to iARMS.
- **Posavina Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

2.7 Participation in the Joint Action Day

Guiding question:

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in the jurisdiction? Did the jurisdiction participate in a JAD during the reporting period?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** Police officers of this Agency participate in the Joint Action Days.
- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies BiH:** The coordinator of activities related to the Joint Action Days (JAD) is the National Joint Contact Point (JCCP) of BiH for cooperation with Europol.
- **Indirect Taxation Authority:** The ITA has appointed a coordinator for the implementation of the SEE JAD 2023 operational action, which will be carried out in November 2023, where the focus is, among other things, on preventing the illegal trade in firearms, and ammunition.
- **Republika Srpska:** The Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska has appointed a coordinator for the Joint Action Day and will participate in the Joint Action Days in the second part of 2023.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** The Federal Police Directorate appoints its coordinator for each implementation of an operational action (JAD or some other international operational action), who actively participates in these actions, where available information is exchanged (shared).
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior** participated in joint actions (promotional material).
- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** did not appoint a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator or participate in a JAD during the reporting period.
- **Border police BiH, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

2.8 Domestic and international tracing

Guiding question:

Was domestic and international tracing conducted for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized during the reporting period?

- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies BiH:** During the reporting period the Directorate received four requests (trace Request) from other Interpol Member States through the iARMS application.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior:** Tracing was performed only at the local level.

- **Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, checks are carried out for all weapons (found, temporarily seized, etc.) at the local level, and at the level of BiH in terms of other police agencies in BiH (RS, Cantonal Ministry of Interior, BD) searching for them.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior** and **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** responded that tracing was conducted during the reporting period but provided no details.
- **Border police BiH, Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** responded that no tracing was conducted during the reporting period.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Federal Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

Is your ballistic laboratory accredited? If no, have actions/steps been taken in this regard?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** The Agency does not have an organizational unit that would perform ballistic expertise.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** We own a ballistics lab, which is not accredited. At the level of the Forensics Unit-KTC, general documents (procedures, instructions, forms) were prepared in accordance with ISO 17025. The next step is to prepare documents within the laboratory (including the Ballistic Expertise Laboratory) for the accreditation of certain methods. We have two comparative microscopes and automatic identification systems EVOFINDER and ARSENAL within the laboratory.
- **Brcko District Police:** The lab exists but is not accredited.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the lab exists and is accredited by the BATA Institute for Accreditation in BiH according to ISO standard 17025.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** The lab exists but is not accredited; accreditation activities are being undertaken.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior:** The lab exists but is not accredited. No action is taken in this regard. Ballistic work is being performed manually, using a comparative microscope.
- **Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior:** The lab exists but is not accredited by a foreign agency. In domicile practice, it corresponds to all standards, since experts are also permanent court experts accredited by official judicial institutions, with extensive experience in practice. The equipment used by the laboratory is state-of-the-art in the country (standard in most ballistic laboratories around the world). The planning of the accreditation of the laboratory as a whole is currently underway. Domestic legislation and practice do not require this type of accreditation. Laboratory capacities are:
 - 2 comparative and 1 stereo microscope;
 - ballistic system for automatic identification - IBIS, which includes components BrassTrax and Matchpoint workstation, BulettTrax and correlation server 2 in 1.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** The lab exists but is not accredited.
- **Border police BiH, Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, and West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** responded that they do not have ballistic laboratories/capacities.
- **Federal Ministry of Security, and Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

2.10 Investigation of firearm-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any steps undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes in the reporting period?

- **SALW Coordination Board:**
 - **Insights Unit Support:** Representatives of BiH participated in the **Regional Workshop on Digital Crime Scene Documenting and Establishing and Maintaining the Chain of Custody** that was organized by SEESAC on May 9-11, in Skopje. The objective of the training was to build capacity of Crime Scene Investigation Units to implement crime scene and evidence photography as well as to introduce best practices regarding the custody chain. Digital photography, as one of the primary means for documenting the crime scene according to ILAC-G19 Guidelines, serves as a vital tool for recording the conditions on the scene, the evidence items and their positions, and the course of the investigation, as per ISO/IEC 17020 standard.
 - **Supporting the fight against illicit trade in firearms:** Based on the findings from the Needs Assessment Report evaluating the capabilities of Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities in combating firearm trafficking and illegal possession, SEESAC implemented a comprehensive training program for law enforcement agencies. The training equipped us with advanced knowledge in firearms detection and the practical application of risk analysis methodologies. The four-day training took place in Mostar from 4th to 7th of July, providing law enforcement officials with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address firearm trafficking and illicit possession.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:**
 - Yes, new police officers were employed in the positions of junior inspectors who were assigned to the FMOI investigation units.
 - Based on the developed SOP (procedure for seized illegal weapons) developed in cooperation with UNDP during the reporting period within the CIAT and HALT project where FMOI is one of the partners, trainings were conducted for trainers and investigators regarding the application of the SOP. FMOI received a donation of two endoscopic devices from UNDP which are used when legal measures and actions are performed by the FMOI investigators.
 - The signing of an agreement on cooperation with CMOIs on the formation of a single collection of unsolved cases for criminal acts carried out by unknown perpetrators in the territory of the FBiH with firearms through the EVOFINDER ballistic program system is underway.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, training of a number of police officers on the application of the USC Law on Weapons and Ammunition was held.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, active efforts are being made to strengthen personnel capacities accompanied by the procurement of adequate equipment and to strengthen interagency cooperation between police agencies, prosecutors' offices and courts.
- **Border police BiH, Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** responded that no activities were undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms related crimes in the reporting period.
- **Federal Ministry of Security, State Investigation and Protection Agency Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

2.11 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions: *Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?*

- **Una-Sana Canton:** Yes, insufficiently skilled personnel dealing with weapon classification, ballistic and similar objectives. Insufficient equipment or lack of equipment for ballistic and similar areas, lack of technical equipment for the use of SIENA and iARMS etc. We highlighted this deficiency through the annual plan of needs for the improvement of the SALW project, but we did not receive the support yet.

SKOPJE

2.1 Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities, and of the SALW control strategy

Guiding questions:

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how?

Is there a valid SALW Strategy in place? If so, is it based on sex and age disaggregated data?

- The SALW Commission coordinates and monitors activities by:
 - identification, assessment and evaluation of SALW impact on society, security and the economic-social development of the country;
 - setting the priorities in the intervention for SALW control and the implementation of the National Action Plan;
 - identification and development of operational measures for intervention in SALW control arising from the goal;
 - coordinating the activities of all adequate participants for supporting the National SALW Action Plan;
 - submitting timely information to all participants for supporting the National SALW Action Plan;
 - monitoring all components of the undertaken measures and activities for SALW for supporting the National SALW Action Plan;
 - evaluation of all components of the measures and activities for SALW in support of the National SALW Action Plan;
 - organizing work meetings, whose dynamics is determined by the president of the National SALW Commission.
- The SALW Commission provided inputs to SEESAC for the preparation of the 9th Regional Roadmap report for the period from 1 July to 1 December 31, 2022.
- **Ninth Local Coordination Meeting** was organized by the SALW Commission on June 16th, 2023, with the support of SEESAC, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Roadmap.
- The SALW Commission participated in the following meetings:
 - An online meeting of SALW Commissions to present the results of the mid-term review of the implementation of the Roadmap, February 24, 2023.
 - Presentation of the universal postal union after Operation Impact - ARMSTRONG, identification of contact points, on 21.03.2023 in Prishtina, organised by UNDOC-GEP.
 - Meeting of the SALW Commission with representatives from SEESAC and UNDP. The objective was to present the needs of the SALW Commission and corresponding organizational units in the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the needs of other ministries in the context of the National Strategy for SALW and the Action Plan 2022-2024.,
 - The third meeting of the Regional Task Force of the Western Balkans to reduce threats of abuse and illegal possession of small and light weapons through informed and multifaceted efforts to increase awareness held on April 4 and 5, 2023, in Budva, Montenegro – organized by SEESAC.
 - A meeting to review existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Memorandum of Understanding in postal and customs services within the Hermes project, focusing on countering the trade in firearms, their parts, and ammunition in express and postal shipments. The meeting occurred on April 26, 2023, in Skopje - organized by UNODC.
 - Workshop on new challenges in the fight against illegal trade in firearms, organized by SEESAC in collaboration with FRONTEX and EMPACT, held on May 4 and 5, 2023, in Belgrade.
 - Annual Regional Workshop for Firearms Focal Points, organized by the SEESAC. The workshop aimed to prepare a regional threat assessment focusing on small arms and light weapons in the region, held from May 23 to 25, 2023, in Belgrade.
 - Regional Workshop on harmonization of legislation in the field of SALW Control with EU Acquis, 31 May-1 June 2023, Brussels, Belgium – SEESAC.

- As part of the UNODC and INTERPOL project promoting international cooperation in cases of firearms trafficking, a report on trafficking in arms from, within, and through the Western Balkans was presented on June 22 in Belgrade, organized by UNODC
- As part of Component 2 of the project aimed at enhancing national practices related to small arms and light weapons, implemented with the support of UNDP, activities were undertaken to develop a new Incident Recording Documents and Activities Module (IRDAM) system. The implementation of this system is expected to enhance and harmonize the information management system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, thereby improving the data collection process for criminal incidents related to firearms. More information is provided under activities 2.6 and 2.7 - Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point.
- New National Strategy for Small Arms and Light Weapons and Action Plan 2022-2024, prepared with the support of SEESAC, was adopted by the Government of North Macedonia in October 2022. The Action Plan contains activities for analysing data by gender and age. The strategic goals of the Strategy are fully harmonized with the goals of the Roadmap.

2.2 Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data

Guiding questions:

*Is data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms standardized and institutionalized? If yes, is the data disaggregated by sex and age?
Is collection of criminal justice data institutionalized?*

- During the reporting period, there is a standardized data collection according to the SOCTA 2021 EUROPOL methodology. In the new Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment – SOCTA 2021, which was fully finalized in December 2021, illicit firearms trafficking is a priority.

2.3 Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender concerns and increase participation of women in SALW control implemented during the reporting period?

- Concerning the integration of the gender perspective in the legal framework, an analysis was conducted, resulting in a Gender Analysis Report on the legislative and policy framework for small arms control in North Macedonia, prepared by SEESAC. In response to the report, it was decided to consider and incorporate the recommendations into the ongoing activities of the commission, as well as into future amendments to the legal regulations. Notably, a majority of the recommendations have been integrated into the new National Strategy for SALW and the Action Plan for 2022-2024.
 - Participated in the second meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Development of a tool for gender-sensitive firearm license approval, held in Durrës, Albania, from May 9 to 11, 2023. The event gathered 20 representatives from five jurisdictions in the Western Balkans. The meeting included discussions on the findings from focus groups and a detailed review of the main steps for evaluating firearms applications from a gender perspective. Additionally, the structure and content of the tools were thoroughly deliberated.
 - Participated in the second meeting of the Regional Working Group on the prevention of the use of firearms in domestic violence through risk assessment, held in Durrës, Albania, from May 23 to 25, 2023. The regional working group, comprised of police officers appointed by the jurisdictions of the Western Balkans, continued its efforts in developing the tool initiated during the first meeting held in November 2022 in Podgorica, Montenegro.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point established and operational during the reporting period?

If yes, were there any activities during the reporting period that made the FFP fully operational?

- Regarding the activities for establishing and operationalization of the FFP, two employees from the Crime Intelligence Analysis Department (OKRA) and one from the Criminal Investigations Department (OKTIV) and Criminal Police Department (OKP) were nominated. All relevant databases are now linked, and the nominated individuals are facilitating the exchange of data in accordance with the procedures and scope of work of their respective organizational units. This collaboration has resulted in the preparation of strategic and operational products.
 - With regard to linking data systems, WRMS was linked to IBASE, while CEMS was analysed and links between CEMS and IBASE were determined. The completion of this phase included the report on analysis and mapping of CEMS data to the FFP model and definition of data exchange and the report on the results of testing and documenting the implementation of CEMS data in the iBase were completed.
 - Analysis report on the new WRMS data model and the report on the analysis and creating of views in the new WRMS database to comply with the current implementation in iBase, as well as the report on the results of testing and documenting the implemented of the WRMS in iBase were also finalized.
 - During the reporting period, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for FFP were submitted by SEESAC for review and approval.
 - From 21-24 March 2023, representatives of North Macedonia participated in the Regional Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT) Training that was organized by SEESAC in Belgrade, Serbia. The training strengthened strategic and operational capacities of the authorities from South-East and East Europe to conduct firearms investigations. During the training, through practical tabletop exercises, the authorities developed and exercised operations for addressing specific risks and intelligence-led policing products such as problem profiles, subject profiles, criminal market analyses and operational and strategic assessments.
 - From 23 to 25 May 2023, representatives of North Macedonia participated in the Annual Workshop of the Firearms Focal Points from the Western Balkans that was organized by SEESAC in Belgrade. The event convened key stakeholders, experts, and representatives from law enforcement agencies throughout the Western Balkans. This included Firearms Focal Points, Forensic Police analysts, Border Police Risk Analysis Units, and Ballistics Laboratories. These experts collaborated to offer valuable insights into regional threat assessment and to formulate effective strategies for combating the illegal possession, abuse, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The workshop specifically centered around the development of a regional SALW threat assessment.
- Representatives of North Macedonia participated in the Firearms Focal Points Intelligence Gathering Workshop to support the EMPACT Joint Action Days, organized by SEESAC, in collaboration NABIS and EMPACT FIREARMS in Budva, Montenegro, on 5-6 April, 2023. The primary objective of the workshop was to develop an Intelligence Collection Plan (ICP) ahead of SEE JAD 2023. An ICP is an integral part of a systematic process employed by intelligence services to fulfil intelligence requirements by allocating all available resources to collect and provide relevant information within the stipulated timeframe.
- Other meetings related to strengthening the functionality of the Firearms Focal Points:
 - Firearms Focal Points training organized by EMPACT in Madrid, Spain, from 16 to 19 May 2023;

2.5 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

Guiding question:

Was SIENA used in the exchange of firearm-related information with Europol?

- Yes, the secure communication link - SIENA was regularly used in daily operations and during the implementation of operational actions for the exchange of information related to firearms with Europol.

2.6 Access to and use of iARMS

Guiding questions:

Does the jurisdiction have access to iARMS? If so, were regular contributions with information on lost and stolen firearms made during the reporting period?

- Yes, we have access to the iARMS database. The tool was used in the reporting period to manually input data in the firearms database on a daily basis. Checks were made and information was exchanged in investigations between law enforcement services in relation to international movement of illegal firearms as well as for legal firearms that were lost or stolen and used to commit crimes, thus facilitating the exchange of information with NCB Interpol Skopje. In addition to the International Police Cooperation Department, the iARMS database can be accessed by the Criminal Police Department – Unit for illicit trafficking in firearms, dangerous materials and radioactive materials, the Ballistics Department within the Department of Forensic Science and Expertise, Department for criminal intelligence and analysis, the Department for prevention of organized and serious crime – Violent Crimes Unit. Recently, the Customs Administration, i.e., the AIRCOP (BIU) department, made up of representatives from the Ministry of Interior and the Customs Administration, has been linked with this database.
- Within the framework of the Kalibar project, with the aim of successful use of the iARMS database and its expansion, a Regional Training of trainers was held by the General Secretariat of INTERPOL in cooperation with UNODC in the period from 6-10 February 2023 in Budva, which was attended by representatives from NCB INTERPOL and the Department of Ballistics at OKTIV, who successfully completed the training and obtained a certificate for Trainers for using the iARMS database.

2.7 Participation in the Joint Action Day

Guiding question:

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in the jurisdiction? Did the jurisdiction participate in a JAD during the reporting period?

- Yes, there is a designated coordinator for the Joint Action Days from the Unit for Illicit Trafficking in Weapons, Dangerous Substances and Radioactive Material at the Criminal Police Department.

2.8 Domestic and international tracing

Guiding question:

Was domestic and international tracing conducted for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized during the reporting period?

- Yes, during the reporting period, an international tracing was conducted for weapons seized on the territory of North Macedonia.
- The development of SOP on handling lost and stolen firearms (at jurisdictional, bilateral, regional and international level) continued during the reporting period with SEESAC's support.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

Is your ballistic laboratory accredited? If no, have actions/steps been taken in this regard?

- The Firearms and Ballistics Division (Ballistics Laboratory) within the Department of Criminal Investigations and Expertise (DCIE) is accredited for the following two methods:
 - Comparative analysis of cartridge cases (shell cases);
 - Comparative analysis of projectiles;
 - It is necessary to accredit other methods (Weapon serviceability, etc.).

2.10 Investigation of firearm-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any steps undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes in the reporting period?

- The representatives of North Macedonia participated in the Regional Workshop on Digital Crime Scene Documentation and Establishing and Maintaining the Chain of Custody that was organized by SEESAC on 9-11 May in Skopje. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of Crime Scene Investigation Units to conduct crime scene photography and evidence, as well as to introduce best practices regarding the chain of custody. Digital photography, as one of the basic means of documenting a crime scene according to the ILAC-G19 guidelines, serves as a vital tool for recording the conditions of the scene, the evidentiary objects and their positions, as well as the course of the investigation, according to ISO/IEC 17020 standard.
- Participation in a workshop on Guidelines for investigation and prosecution of crimes related to firearms in January and February in several cities in North Macedonia, organized by UNODC.

2.11 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **The needs of the Department of Forensic Investigations:**
 - Upgrade of the shooting range in the new forensic building in the MOI;
 - Ensuring the integrity of ballistic evidence through appropriate video surveillance and controlled access;
 - Providing adequate working conditions for the analysis and expertise of ballistic evidence;
 - Construction of a suitable room in the Training Centre of the MOI for training, i.e., simulation exercises;
 - Conducting training in on-site investigations for crime scene technicians;
 - Conducting training in the ISO 17020 standard;
 - Procurement of material and technical assets for the on-site investigation services;
 - Renovation of the premises of the on-site investigation services in all regional Internal Affairs Services (IAS);
 - Support for the introduction of accredited methods to achieve full accreditation of the ballistics laboratory.

TIRANA

2.1 Coordination and monitoring of arms control activities, and of the SALW control strategy

Guiding questions:

Was the SALW Commission coordinating and monitoring arms control activities in your jurisdiction during the reporting period? If so, how?

Is there a valid SALW Strategy in place? If so, is it based on sex and age disaggregated data?

- The National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), is an inter-ministerial body responsible for planning, coordinating, monitoring and reporting all activities related to weapons control in Albania, in order to ensure a safe environment and therefore to create favourable conditions for the sustainable development of the country. **During the reporting period, the National SALW Commission conducted the following activities:**
 - Monitoring the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Control of SALW, in compliance with the areas of responsibility and based on a full assessment of the firearms control situation in Albania, and reporting on the implementation of the goals of this Strategy.
 - Meeting the obligations under the goals of the Regional Roadmap on the control of small arms and light weapons in the Western Balkans.
- **The National SALW Commission has organized/attended the following meetings:**
 - The European Commission, in close cooperation with the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European External Action Service, organized a high-level meeting in Brussels on 16 May 2023 to discuss the implementation of measures of the EU action plan on firearms trafficking, including the Western Balkans Roadmap on SALW control. Ministers of Interior, representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the Western Balkans, representatives of EU member states, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as the main international organizations participated in this meeting. Albania was represented in this activity by the Head of the National SALW Commission and members of the National Commission. Albania has reconfirmed its commitment to continue with the implementation of the Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans even beyond its current deadline of 2024, in compliance with, main findings and recommendations of its mid-term evaluation, while also considering the changing security conditions in the region and new threats.
 - In April, the National SALW Commission submitted the progress report on the implementation of the Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans for the period July - December 2022, as well as the statistical performance indicators for the same period.
 - On 31 May - 1 June 2023, the National SALW Commission participated in the regional meeting on the harmonization of the legislation in the area of firearms control, organized by SEESAC in framework of supporting the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans. This meeting served to present the latest developments regarding the harmonization of the legislation on the control of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives from Western Balkans countries, as well as the latest developments of the EU legislation in the area of SALW control by the European Commission.
 - Albania organized the 9th Local Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans.
 - On 4-5 July 2023, the National SALW Commission participated in the 9th Regional Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Western Balkans, as well as in the 17th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions.
 - The progress made in relation to the implementation of the Roadmap and the activities planned for 2023 was discussed during the coordination meetings.
 - In framework of the call for application for benefiting from the projects funded by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Commission has coordinated the needs assessment and has approved the concept proposal for two new projects in the area of SALW control, which shall be implemented by UNODC and UNDP Albania.
 - On 21-22 June 2023, representatives of the National SALW Commission and MPs of the Commission for National Security in the Albanian Parliament participated in the meeting *“Enhancing parliamentary awareness and action for more peaceful and sustainably developed societies - implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans”*.
- **There is a valid SALW Strategy in place.** By means of Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 50, dated 06/02/2019, the “Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives Control National Strategy 2019-2024” has been adopted. In 2021, the Action Plan 2022-2024 was adopted by means of the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 754, dated 09/12/2021 “On the approval of the Action Plan 2022–2024 of the Small Arms, Light Weapons, their Ammunition

and Explosives Control Strategy 2019–2024”. The SALW unit is currently extracting and analysing data by gender and age for any case involving SALW. This is done in order to understand the main challenges in preventing, among others, the misuse of SALW in domestic violence.

2.2 Data collection practices on the distribution and impact of SALW/firearms, and collection of criminal justice data

Guiding questions:

Is data collection on distribution and impact of SALW/firearms standardized and institutionalized? If yes, is the data disaggregated by sex and age?

Is collection of criminal justice data institutionalized?

- The data on SALW and their impact in our country can be extracted using the Firearms Information Management System (SIMA), which, however, is not fully standardized especially with regards to information by gender and age. The data by gender and age can be extracted, but this is done manually and not on the spot. The data on distribution and impact of firearms are collected/extracted through the report of the daily communication electronic system, whenever needed or requested. In addition, through the daily communication statistical report, it is possible, whenever necessary, to extract data on seizures disaggregated by geographical location, i.e., by Local Police Directorates. The official statistics on crimes provides disaggregated data on the victim's age (under 14 years old, 14-18 years old and above 18 years old), gender (female, male), whether the incident has resulted in death and connections with the perpetrator. Regarding the perpetrator, the data are disaggregated by age (under 14 years old, 15-17, 18-29, 30-44, 45-59 and above 60 years old), as well as by education, employment, etc. This provides an overview of the age groups involved in weapon-related criminal offences as well as on the age groups and genders that are mostly affected by weapon-related crimes. With regards to the ownership of legal weapons, it is not possible to disaggregate such data by gender and age because the SIMA system cannot generate such a report, but the data are registered within each file. SIMA is in process of being upgraded, in terms of data reorganization and generation, with the assistance of UNDP/SEESAC.
- With regards to the **exchange of data on criminal justice**, the Police Case Management System is currently in place. Such system has been set up to access and enter data on a criminal case, including those related to the use of firearms, by the State Police, Prosecution Office and Courts. Currently, this system is being used and updated with State Police data only and it is not yet operational regarding data from the Prosecution Office and Courts. Such system has been also designed to produce analytical reports of the data from the criminal justice. Institutional exchange of information is still paper based to date.

2.3 Activities addressing gender concerns and increasing participation of women in SALW control

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to address gender concerns and increase participation of women in SALW control implemented during the reporting period?

- Yes. Experts from the Department of Public Safety at the State Police and members of the Firearms Focal Point participated in the Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the development of a tool for gender-sensitive firearms license approval, on 9-11 May 2023. This meeting was attended by 20 representatives from five jurisdictions of the Western Balkans, who discussed the main steps in reviewing a firearms application from the gender perspective.
- Participants of the State Police and Firearms Focal Point participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Working Group for the development of a tool for the prevention of the use of firearms in domestic violence, which took place on 23-25 May 2023.
- The National SALW Commission and the Firearms Focal Point have completed the questionnaire with qualitative and quantitative data on the gender aspects in small arms and light weapons control, in framework of the SEESAC

initiative to develop a regional analysis to understand the challenges faced by the region with regards to mainstreaming gender in SALW control and especially with regards to preventing the misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence and ensuring balanced gender participation in SALW control. The information was focussed on the strategic, legal and procedural framework, as well as on the mechanisms and institutional practices established to ensure and promote gender equality.

- During the reporting period, trainings have been organized in the Local Police Directorates of Tirana, Elbasan, Durrës, Fier and Vlora, with the topic “A more effective response of the State Police towards gender-based violence and domestic violence.” Such trainings are also planned to continue during the second half of the year in other Local Police Directorates.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point established and operational during the reporting period?

If yes, were there any activities during the reporting period that made the FFP fully operational?

- Yes, the Firearms Focal Point was established and is operational.
- Based on the recommendations of the previous European Commission reports on Albania, with regards to the full operationalization of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Unit, through the changes made to organizational structure of the State Police, approved in April 2023 (by means of the Order of the Minister of Interior No. 47, dated 14/04/2023 “On the approval of the structure and organizational chart at central and local level, as well as on the special State Police structures”, implemented by means of Order No. 688, dated 10 May 2023 of the General Director of the State Police, “On the implementation of the organic structure of the State Police”), the Ministry of Interior established the Firearms Focal Point as a permanent organizational structure with 3 dedicated employees, which is part of the Sector for Investigation of Illegal Trafficking at the Directorate for Investigation of Narcotics, Criminal Police Department. Its job description has been approved by means of Order No. 1075, dated 25 July 2023 of the General Director of the State Police. The integration of such unit in the organizational structure of the State Police shall enable the sustainable enhancement of its capacities and shall improve the exchange of information on current and future SALW control activities among police structures, other national and international law enforcement structures, and shall provide reliable data disaggregated by gender and age.

2.5 Exchange of firearm-related information with Europol through SIENA

Guiding question:

Was SIENA used in the exchange of firearm-related information with Europol?

- Yes, information is regularly exchanged through the SIENA channel. Through the SIENA channel, information is exchanged with Europol on any identified case of firearms and ammunition trafficking, as well as on the analyses carried out by the FFP with regards to SALW trafficking, illegal migration and narcotics, in order to contribute to the intelligence exchange phase for international police operations JAD SEE, Armstrong, Conversus.
- In addition, the necessary data and information related to concrete cases of SALW trafficking and seizure, is also exchanged with regional and EU counterparts. Recently, we have exchanged information with Hungary on a concrete investigation involving Albanian citizens. The same cooperation has also taken place with Kosovo, North Macedonia, Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.
- The FFP has intensively exchanged information with the analytical project of Europol “Weapons and Explosives.” The bulletins of this analytical project serve to provide information on the trends of SALW trafficking, conversion and manufacturing. The FFP shares these trends with operational structures on the ground. Europol bulletins also comprise identifications of threats and risks from concrete cases that have occurred and have been investigated in Albania, which serve as risk analysis for FFP counterparts in the EU and the region.

- Through the SIENA channel, the Unit exchanges information on Standard Operational Plans, as well as data and information in framework of the Joint Action Days (JAD), or exchanges analyses after the conclusion of such activities.

2.6 Access to and use of iARMS

Guiding questions:

Does the jurisdiction have access to iARMS? If so, were regular contributions with information on lost and stolen firearms made during the reporting period?

- Yes, the State Police has access to iARMS and contributes regularly to entering data on firearms reported as stolen or lost. Currently, the FFP coordinates with the structure of Interpol Tirana, which is part of the Department of International Relations at the State Police. However, following the organizational changes and its establishment as a permanent structure, the FFP is in process of obtaining direct access for its specialists in order to increase its operationalization. 2 firearms have been registered in iARMS during the reporting period, which are stolen. Verifications have been conducted in 8 cases for seized firearms. For all seized firearms in Albania, whose origin is unknown, a verification is made in iARMS.

2.7 Participation in the Joint Action Day

Guiding question:

Is a Joint Action Day (JAD) Coordinator appointed in the jurisdiction? Did the jurisdiction participate in a JAD during the reporting period?

- Yes. The EMPACT activities coordinator for 2023 has been assigned. The FFP shall participate in the planned EMPACT activities for 2023 and shall be a co-leader in two of them. During the reporting period, we have participated in the preparatory activities of operation SEE JAD, such as debriefing meetings and intelligence phase meetings. Currently, the operational phase of operation SEE JAD is being prepared. The same applies to operation “Armstrong.”
- Operation “Conversus” took place on 20-24 February 2023. The operation has resulted in a closer cooperation between participating countries at operational level.

2.8 Domestic and international tracing

Guiding question:

Was domestic and international tracing conducted for firearms and ammunition recovered and/or seized during the reporting period?

- Currently, tracing is performed for each seized/stolen/lost firearm whose origin is unknown, as a result of the capacity building of the Firearms Focal Point, among others. Data on 2 stolen firearms have been entered to iARMS during the reporting period. Different countries have requested 8 verifications regarding data in our SIMA database.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

Is your ballistic laboratory accredited? If no, have actions/steps been taken in this regard?

- The Ballistics Examination Sector at the Forensic Police Institute in Tirana is not accredited. The Police Forensic Institute has been part of a NABIS – British Firearms Intelligence project. The main focus of this project, among others, is the support for the implementation of the ISO 17025 Standard in the Ballistics Sector. The work continued

with the proficiency tests for the Chemistry Sector as well as for the DNA Biology Sector. The results of these tests continue to be a source of security and impetus for moving forward in fulfilling the obligations for the implementation of the ISO 17025 Standard not only for these two sectors, but also for all other sectors of the Institute. Currently, from the technical point of view, the Forensic Police Institute is well-equipped to perform ballistic, traseological and GSR examinations, etc. In function of the accreditation process, the standard procedures (five procedures) for the respective examinations have been approved. Such procedures have also been consulted with an expert contracted by UNDP in framework of the project “Support Albania’s Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities,” implemented by UNDP Albania, with the aim of supporting further capacity building in the region, in the area of crime scene investigations.

2.10 Investigation of firearm-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any steps undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes in the reporting period?

- Yes. On 21-24 March 2023, SEESAC organized a Regional Training on Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT), in Belgrade, Serbia. This training targeted firearms Focal Points from the Western Balkans, Moldova and authorities from Ukraine. The training, through practical exercises, enabled the development of capacities to address specific risks and to use intelligence-led policing products, such as problem profiles, subject profiles, criminal market analysis and operational and strategic assessments for the prevention or investigation of firearms-related criminal offences.
- Another Regional Meeting of Criminal Police representatives from the Western Balkans and Moldova was held in Skopje on 25-26 April 2023. The meetings focussed on presenting the latest threats and *modus operandi* related to the illicit possession and trafficking of firearms.
- Following the needs assessment on the capacities of the Criminal Police of Albania in the fight against illicit possession and trafficking of firearms, SEESAC organized a comprehensive training for equipping the Criminal Police with advanced capacities to detect firearms and practically implement the risk analysis. The training took place in Tirana, on 20-23 June, and enhanced the participants knowledge and expertise to effectively address firearms trafficking and their illicit possession.
- The intelligence phase meeting of Firearms Focal Points, in support of the EMPACT Joint Action Days, took place on 5-6 April 2023, in Budva, Montenegro. The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) from the United Kingdom and EMPACT FIREARMS also participated in this meeting. This was the preparatory meeting of the intelligence phase of operation SEE JAD 2023.

2.11 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **General Attorney’s Office:** Setting up and implementing an online program including all stakeholders, which would include data entries on the activity dynamics of each institution. Such data would then be used to obtain the required statistical indicators that are indispensable for institutional analysis and assessments, as well as for reporting progress to this regional project and beyond.
- **State Police:** Data replication in the system and the lack of several categories of statistical data, which are necessary for different questionnaires or reports requested by: SEESAC, UNODC, OSCE, etc.
- **Ministry of Interior:** Assistance in analysing the legal and institutional framework for the drafting of the law on precursors.

ROADMAP GOAL 3

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

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure full implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework on trafficking of FAE. 2. Prevent trafficking (smuggling, illicit trade and transit) of FAE through improved processes, equipment and training of targeted law enforcement units. 3. Substantially strengthen control, monitoring and prevention of diversion of legal trade through improved capacities, procedures and transparency. 4. Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms.
Progress information on Goal 3 Overall Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information exchange between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated; 2. Diversion of arms exports; 3. Arms trafficking and border control; 4. Control of explosive precursors; 5. Use of EMPACT's and Europol's tools of investigations; 6. Participation in regional meetings; 7. Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study; 8. Operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol; 9. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.

Progress information on Goal 3 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

3.1 Information exchange between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated

Guiding question:

Is there an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated?

- Implementation and monitoring of legal, policy and procedural framework for the suppression of FAE trafficking is done by Serbia in accordance with the national legislation, i.e., laws in the field of weapons, prescribed criminal offences, by-laws and internationally undertaken obligations.
- Having in mind that the prosecutor's offices, the Ministry of the Interior and courts all participate in the criminal procedure, the system of data exchange in Serbia is regulated by the Rulebook on Criminal Records (by-laws in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code). However, it is necessary to adopt instructions or methodology that would closely prescribe all aspects of data and information exchange in criminal procedure and on prosecuted and adjudicated firearms related cases. Therefore, **a unified information exchange system between police, prosecutor's offices and courts on prosecuted and adjudicated FAE-related cases is not in place.**

3.2 Diversion of arms exports

Guiding questions:

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period?

Was an annual report on arms exports published?

- **No cases of diversion of arms exports were reported** during the reporting period.
- The Government adopted the Annual report on the export of weapons and military equipment and the Annual report on export and import of dual-purpose goods. Both annual reports are available on the website of the Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade: <https://must.gov.rs/tekst/383/izvozna-kontrolanvo-i-rdn.php>.

3.3 Arms trafficking and border control

Guiding questions:

Were there any reported cases of firearms trafficking during the reporting period?

Were there any activities focused on strengthening border control during the reporting period?

- As part of the Digitization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation (DIRC) project implemented within the SALW Roadmap implementation, UNDP BIH invited the Ministry of the Interior to participate in the Joint Exercise that is to be held by the law enforcement and customs authorities. A preparatory meeting between the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the criminal and border police directorates of the Ministry of the Interior was held in Belgrade on 22 March 2023 to present the concept of the Joint Exercise which is to be held in the second half of the year.
- On 25–26 April 2023, a Regional meeting of criminal police representatives was organised in Skopje, North Macedonia, for the purpose of raising the capacity of the criminal police for the investigation of these criminal offences and the exchange of good practices. The goal of the meeting was to increase the capacity of the criminal police through empowering regional cooperation, knowledge exchange, and information-sharing. The meeting discussed the preventive and repressive role of the criminal police in this area, as well as the latest forms of threats and new modus operandi in the field of firearms trafficking and smuggling.
- In the period 9–12 May 2023, SESSAC organised the training of trainers in Belgrade, Serbia, aimed at building the capacities of the Criminal Police to counter trafficking in and illicit possession of firearms, as well as the practical application of the risk analysis methodology, especially from the aspect of criminal police operations, with the possibility of further transferring knowledge from this area. The training was organised within the framework of cooperation between the MoI RS and UNDP SESSAC, following the Needs Assessment Report on Capacities of the Criminal Police, and will be followed by the donation of equipment for this directorate. The training itself encompassed a theoretical component followed by a practical exercise. The training was attended by 25 members of the Criminal Police Directorate from the MoI’s headquarters and regional police directorates.
- In the period 22-26 June, representatives of Serbia customs participated in the study visit for all WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France, organized by UNODC in cooperation with the French Customs. We received information about the organization of work of French Customs, La Poste and Express Courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods. We had the opportunity to observe the work of the French counterparts in the postal depots and the teamwork between French Customs and La Poste on inspecting suspicious parcels. As a result of the study visit, the designated postal operators (DPO) initiated a review of their internal procedures on risk analysis.
- In October 2019, an Expert Team carried out a peer review mission – organized by SEESAC – to assess the capacity and needs of the MoI RS border police. In accordance with the assessment and issued recommendations, SEESAC issued a call for the provision of equipment.

“Building the capacities of the Police Departments in strengthening their K9 capabilities in detecting weapons and explosives”

- A prerequisite for launching this project was an organizational change within the Ministry of the Interior which led to the establishment of the K9 Unit Training Centre within the Centre for Police Training of the Human Resources Sector in June 2021.
- For the purpose of further harmonization of the cooperation project, the Ministry of the Interior prepared a Needs Assessment and Justification Report and submitted it to the OSCE.

The K9 Unit Training Centre was engaged in the following activities:

- Acquisition of new dogs;
- Preparation of problem-oriented training on the topic: The conduct of police officers in situations involving dogs (owned and stray);
- In February this year, a meeting was held in Budapest with the officials of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior regarding the drafting of a Memorandum on Cooperation between the two ministries (illegal laboratories/service dogs);
- The drafting of the initial document “Capital investment” regarding the construction of facilities at the allocated area of Barajevo vineyards (Lipovica II - Radio far);
- On 19 May 2022, an extraordinary, consultative meeting of representatives of the OSCE and the Ministry of the Interior was held in relation to the project of raising and strengthening K9 capabilities in detecting weapons and explosives. A draft plan for the construction of the K9 Unit Training Centre according to the given project task was submitted. Subsequently, the Project Plan Proposal and the Sketch of the future Centre were also submitted for consideration.
- A pre-selection staffing protocol (entry criteria, conditions) for training the K9 trainers has been developed (it is in the process of being delivered to the General Police Directorate);
- Meetings were organized with K9 units and a list of necessary canine training and conditioning equipment was made for all K9 units and the work on standardization of equipment started. A canine equipment standardization plan was created for the regular monthly K9 conditioning.
- The harmonisation of the text of the Memorandum on the implementation of the project Strengthening the capacities of the Serbian Ministry of Interior to more effectively reduce, prevent, and counter illicit trafficking and misuse of SALW, ammunition and explosives (K9) is underway.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

Was a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors during the reporting period?

- During the reporting period, **a list of explosive precursors was not prescribed or established** by the national legislation, so there is no control mechanism of this type in place.

3.5 Use of EMPACT’s and Europol’s tools for investigations

Guiding question:

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol?

- Existing international mechanisms are enhanced by regular exchange of operational knowledge through international cooperation channels, exchange of strategic information on newly recognized *modus operandi* and arms smuggling routes, as well as through participation in thematic international meetings and joint operations. The Serbian Police strives to use investigation tools offered by EMPACT and Europol as much as possible. To this

end, the promotion of available tools among the competent authorities at joint meetings and in contacts related to the cases has continued. During the reporting period, Europol's strategic and operational products, such as intelligence packages, operational-analytical reports and reports on the results of cross-checks were the main supporting tools for investigations used. Particularly important for Serbia were the intelligence packages that were prepared by Europol based on information about the weapon smuggling OCGs, which was obtained by analysing the Sky ECC encrypted communications. Based on this package, several persons, who are also suspected of other serious crimes, such as murder, extortion, kidnapping and drug trafficking, were arrested. The Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) and the large file exchange platform within the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE) are regularly used. The representatives of the competent units participated in several online meetings organized by Europol. Regular operational and strategic cooperation has been established with several EU member states and third parties – Europol's operational partners, regarding ongoing investigations through SIENA and through operational video meetings. **During the reporting period, the Serbian police participated in a total of 7 Operational Actions within the EMPACT Firearms OAP 2023.**

- In the period 20–24 February 2023, Operational action 2.1 - CONVERSUS was carried out within EMPACT Firearms with the aim of suppressing the illegal production, possession, trade and carrying of convertible weapons and combating the threat of conversion of gas, start and signal weapons (convertible weapons) into firearms as well as the threat of conversion of ammunition for start and signal weapons into ammunition for firearms. **This international action involved the participation of a total of 687 police officers, checks of 7,424 persons and 6,150 vehicles, and 102 searches of apartments and other premises. 7 persons were deprived of their liberty due to the commission of firearms-related criminal offenses. On that occasion, the following were seized: 4 pistols, 2 revolvers, 4 rifles, 2 sawed-off shotgun, 1 handmade pistol, 23 handmade revolvers, 9 handmade rifles, 15 convertible pistols, 5 hunting rifles, 4 hand grenades, 9 detonators, 105 pieces of ammunition for convertible weapons, 2,581 pieces of ammunition of different calibres for firearms, as well as a certain amount of drugs.**
- Within the framework of EMPACT Firearms 2023, the Serbian police also participates in OA 3.2 - Armstrong X 2023, which has been carried out continuously during 2023 and within which information is collected on the seizure of weapons and parts of ammunition.
- Preparations for the participation in the international action JAD South-East Europe - for the ninth time in a row - are underway, in accordance with OA 8.1 within the EMPACT Firearms 2023, which is to be realized in the period from 13–18 November 2023.

3.6 Participation in regional meetings

Guiding question:

Did your jurisdiction participate in regional meetings/workshops eg: SALW Commissions process, RASR, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC?

In order to strengthen the capacity for online firearm trafficking investigations, the MoI RS participated in the framework program of the European Union for research and innovation, Horizon Europe, in the Project "Ceasefire: Advanced versatile artificial intelligence technologies and interconnected cross-sectoral fully-operational national focal points for combating illicit firearms trafficking". During the reporting period, Ministry of Interior initiated the procedure for the participation of its representatives at the 3rd plenary meeting of project implementers in Lisbon, Portugal, which was held at the beginning of July 2023. For more effective project outcomes, MoI also considers including the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies in the research activities.

During the reporting period, the following workshops / seminars / training were also attended:

- 31 January 2023 - the Second National Workshop for Raising Awareness about the EU Policy Cycle – EMPACT within the project Countering Serious Crime in the Western Balkans IPA 2019 was held in Belgrade, Serbia;

- 9 February 2023 - a kick-off meeting of the EMPACT Firearms Operational Action Plan 2023 on the topic of new perspectives, goals, planned actions, needs and challenges to be achieved in 2023 was held at the headquarters of Europol in The Hague, Netherlands;
- 27–28 February 2023 - SEE JAD 2022 debriefing and SEE JAD 2023 preparatory meeting within EMPACT Firearms - OA 8.1 SEE JAD were held in Sofia, Bulgaria;
- 23 March 2023 - a meeting within the Project Hermes - Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was held in Belgrade, Serbia;
- 26–31 March 2023 - a study visit to the French SALW services with the help of representatives of Western Balkan partners and attended by two police officers of the MoI RS;
- 5–6 April 2023 - Workshop on intelligence analysis and preparation of the SEE JAD 2023 operational phase which was organized by SEESAC, in Budva, Montenegro and attended by one police officer of the MoI RS;
- 21–24 March 2023 - the Regional Social Media Intelligence Training (SOCMINT) was organized by SEESAC in Belgrade, Serbia and attended by three police officers of the MoI;
- 4–5 May 2023 - the Workshop on new challenges in combating firearms trafficking was held in Belgrade, Serbia;
- 9–10 May 2023 - a seminar within the EU funded project Fight Organized Crime Against Light Small Firearms (FOCAL-SF) was held in Bucharest, Romania in support of National Firearms Focal Points, financed by FIIAPP;
- 17–18 May 2023 - an international Firearms Tracking Training Course was held, with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of firearms tracking, as well as familiarization with the various tools that are available and facilitate the tracking of illegal firearms, within EMPACT Firearms OA 6.2 - Capacity Building, organized by EMPACT, financed by FIIAPP, with the support of US ATF and Europol - at the Headquarters of the National Central Bureau of the Spanish National Police in Madrid, Spain;
- 13–14 June 2023 - 18th Regional Meeting of the South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) was organized by SEESAC in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 13 June 2023 - a regional meeting aimed at finalizing SOPs and MoU on countering firearms trafficking in postal parcels within the Project Hermes - Countering Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition in Express Courier and Postal Parcels was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 15 June 2023 - Strategic meeting OAP 2023 regarding general review and firearms threat analysis for the purpose of adopting the EMPACT Firearms OAP 2024–2025 was organized online by EMPACT, at the headquarters of Europol;
- 19 June 2023 - one police officer from Serbia participated in a meeting on the exchange of information related to firearms at the international level, organized by “REGISYNC” in Brussels, Belgium and funded by the European Union. “REGISYNC” is one of the projects implemented by the Internal Security Fund (ISF) aims to synchronize firearms registers in the EU and several neighbouring countries;

3.7 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

Do you collect data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study of UNODC?

- Serbia collects data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study.
- One of the activities defined within the Global Firearms Programme (GFP) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the preparation of a UNODC report on illicit firearms flows in the Western Balkans for the preparation of which the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy was engaged. On this occasion, on 24 March 2023, the MoI RS delegation attended a briefing ahead of the preparation of the report and the preparation of the necessary questionnaires. Moreover, on 22 June 2023, the delegation participated in the regional meeting on the occasion of the presentation of the UNODC Draft Report.

3.8 Operation cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol

Guiding question:

Did you have any operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States, INTERPOL during the reporting period? If yes, could you provide details?

- **FRONTEX** - Operational cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is carried out through the **Working Arrangement establishing operational cooperation between the Ministry of Interior of Serbia and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of European Union (FRONTEX) signed in 2009**. Under the Working Arrangement, the Border Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior collects and analyses data on seizures of weapons and ammunition. **The border police officers submit monthly reports in a form prescribed by FRONTEX, which in line with the form used by EU Member States. During the reporting period, 6 monthly tables were delivered.**
- **INTERPOL** - All information on seized or found weapons, ammunition and explosives received through the channels of INTERPOL (I 24/7), Europol (SIENA), the SELEC Centre or the liaison officer are forwarded to the competent authorities in due time. Also, all inquiries from competent national authorities shall be forwarded in due time to EUROPOL (AP Weapons and Explosives), relevant EU Member States and third parties – EUROPOL's operational partners and through INTERPOL's communication channel (I 24/7) to interested states. After national database on stolen/lost weapons becomes fully operational, data from it will be automatically transferred to INTERPOL's iARMS database. The Risk Analysis Unit within the Border Police Directorate has been collecting and analysing data on weapons and ammunition seizures since 2009. Data on seizures of weapons and ammunition are entered in 12 G application.
- **EUROPOL** - Serbia continuously exchanges operational and strategic information and data with the EU law enforcement agencies. The operational cooperation with Europol is based on the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation that came into force in June 2014, along with the Memorandum of Understanding on Confidentiality and Information Assurance and the Bilateral Agreement for the Interconnection of the Computer Networks between Serbia and Europol. In 2014, Serbia and EUROPOL became operational partners, and the number of data exchanged has been increasing ever since.

3.9 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms?

- During the reporting period, following legal procedures, a total of 6,226 pieces of firearms in legal possession were seized as well as 620 pieces of weapons, 17,890 pieces of ammunition of different calibres, 27 grenades, 2 hand rocket launchers, and 2.5 kg of explosives found in illegal possession of the citizens. In the same period, 673 criminal offences under Article 348 of the Criminal Code were committed and 656 criminal charges filed against 690 perpetrators.

3.10 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- In order to fulfil Goal 3 – By 2024, it is **necessary to establish a unified system for the exchange of information between the police, the prosecution and the judiciary** on the cases related to firearms on which investigations were initiated and judgements pronounced, especially final ones.
- Support is also needed to develop the legal framework which would regulate the area of explosive precursors. In addition to Regional Workshop on Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of Explosives with the EU Acquis, **additional support is required in terms of drafting relevant regulation(s).**
- In terms of familiarity with regulations governing import, export, transport and transit of firearms, ammunition and explosives, as well as techniques for detecting illegal trade thereof, it is necessary to deliver continued training for customs officers. The Customs Administration offers specialist training entitled “Controlling the trade in strategic goods – identification of dual-use goods” according to the curriculum developed by the World Customs Organization, **within which special attention is paid to customs control of arms and military equipment, in order to improve the knowledge of customs officers in this field, and thus improve the effects of control.**
- **In addition, customs officers carrying out border control need to be provided with appropriate equipment for more efficient detection of smuggled firearms, ammunition and explosives.** To implement the above, the possibilities for obtaining technical and financial assistance under bilateral and international projects should be considered.

PODGORICA

3.1 Information exchange between police, prosecutor’s office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated

Guiding question:

Is there an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor’s office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated?

- Various data collection methodologies are used; there is no possibility of obtaining comparable statistical and other data overviews from all institutions of the criminal justice sector; annual reports on the processing crimes committed by firearms cannot be cross-referenced.

3.2 Diversion of arms exports

Guiding questions:

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period?

Was an annual report on arms exports published?

- There were **no reported cases of diversion.**
- Montenegro submitted arms export data for the **Regional Report on Arms Export for 2021.** The Report is expected to be finalized in the second half of the year.

3.3 Arms trafficking and border control

Guiding question:

Were there any reported cases of firearms trafficking during the reporting period?

Were there any activities focused on strengthening border control during the reporting period?

- There were **no reported cases of arms and ammunition trafficking.**

- Standard Operating Procedures for the Border Police were prepared with SEESAC support and adopted. At the official request of the Border Police, additional support was provided for the publication of the SOP for risk analysis, which are used as guidelines in the work of the Border Police's department for operational work and risk analysis. The processes of procurement of equipment needed by the Border Police of Montenegro to improve its operations to combat illicit arms trafficking have been initiated by SEESAC.
- The OSCE Mission and the Secretariat planned a visit by K9 experts for the purpose of assessing the capacities and further needs of the Montenegrin police for service dogs. They will prepare a comprehensive report on the current situation and needs of police units for training, reconstruction of existing facilities and development of capacities for detection of weapons, ammunition and explosives. There was a visit from the OSCE mission with hired experts from the British and French police from 26 to 31 March 2023.
- Minister of the Interior of Montenegro, and the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, signed on 17 May in Brussels the Agreement between the European Union and Montenegro on operational activities carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Montenegro (Frontex). The new Agreement, as it is stated, foresees, among other things, the deployment of Frontex officers and the exercise of executive powers on any part of the state border of Montenegro, not only on the border with the European Union, as it was defined by the previous Agreement. In addition to the officers of the Police Administration of Montenegro, it is also foreseen that members of the standing corps of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency will also carry out border control tasks.
- The needs assessment mission was conducted from 20 to 24 February 2023 (MoI, Customs Administration, state postal operator, Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Economy);
- In the period 22-26 June, representatives of Montenegro custom participated in the study visit for all WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France organized by UNODC in cooperation with the French Customs. We received information about the organization of work of French Customs, La Poste and Express Courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods. We had the opportunity to observe the work of the French counterparts in the postal depots and the teamwork between French Customs and La Poste on inspecting suspicious parcels. As a result of the study visit, the designated postal operators (DPO) initiated a review of their internal procedures on risk analysis;
- Progress has been made in the development of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Revenue and Customs Administration and the Montenegro Post (Memorandum) and the Instructions for actions in detecting firearms, narcotics and radiological material in parcel shipments (Instructions) during the implementation of the first phase of the Hermes project;
- In addition, Montenegrin Customs and the SALW Commission received support from BiH Customs to develop needs assessment for preventing firearms trafficking in postal parcels.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

Was a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors during the reporting period?

- Conventional weapons control mechanisms have been established, but not for precursors; national, regional and international monitoring mechanisms are used; the process of regional information exchange needs to be improved; the broker database is being regularly updated.

3.5 Use of EMPACT's and Europol's tools for investigations

Guiding question:

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol?

- No.

3.6 Participation in regional meetings

Guiding question:

Did your jurisdiction participate in the regional meetings of: SALW Commissions process, RASR, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC?

- Yes, representatives from Montenegro participated in the regional meetings related to arms control, which were listed in previous answers.
Firearms trafficking and related criminal offences in express courier and postal parcels:
- Police investigators, customs officers, prosecutors, ballistic experts, representatives of the border police from Montenegro attended the 18th regional meeting of the South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 13-14 June. The topics discussed at the meeting included case studies of firearms-related criminal offences and examples of cooperation between investigators, ballistic experts and prosecutors. Furthermore, the participants discussed the results of the Annual Workshop for Firearms Focal Points and the draft Regional Threat Assessment.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the meeting on combating illicit trafficking of firearms, their components and ammunition in parcel shipments, on 23 March 2023 in Belgrade;
- A workshop on improving the regulatory framework for combating illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosives in parcel shipments was organized on 9 May 2023 in Podgorica, Montenegro;
- UNODC GFP organized a workshop on improving the regulatory framework for combating illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts, ammunition and explosives in parcel shipments on 13 June 2023 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the regional meeting where the draft Report on Illicit Arms Flows in the Western Balkans was presented. The meeting was held on 22 June 2023 in Belgrade;

3.7 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

Do you collect data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study of UNODC?

- Yes, we are collecting data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study.
- On 22 June we participated in the Regional meeting to support data exchange on firearms trafficking between the Western Balkans jurisdictions and the countries along the related routes organized by UNODC.

3.8 Operation cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol

Guiding question:

Did you have any operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States, INTERPOL during the reporting period? If yes, could you provide details?

- Yes. Operational cooperation continued with Interpol, Europol and EU member states.

3.9 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms?

- Yes, please see more details in the answer under the Goal 1.

3.10 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes:
 - Proposal submitted to UNODC for training needs of the Forensic Centre and two organizational units of the criminal police;
 - the need to continue the project – Training of judicial and prosecuting authorities in relation to the harmonization of criminal legislation with the UN Protocol and the harmonization of case law; Montenegro provided strategic support to the implementation of the second phase of the regional project Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking - the concept project Justicia;
 - arms control in parcel shipments.
- Yes, support was requested and received.

PRISTINA

3.1 Information exchange between police, prosecutor’s office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated

Guiding question:

Is there an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor’s office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated?

- **There is no such a system in place, connecting Police-Prosecution-Court.**
 - With regards to cases monitoring, the Kosovo Police has a joint system with the Prosecution Office and the Prosecution Office has a joint system with courts.
 - The Prosecution Office and courts have a system that enables the registration of materials from the moment of takeover to their disposal. Currently, it is possible to extract statistics from their database, but not as provided for in the Roadmap.

3.2 Diversion of arms exports

Guiding questions:

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period?

Was an annual report on arms exports published?

- **There are no such reported cases**, because there are no exports in Kosovo.
- Report on arms exports **was not published because there are no arms exports**.

3.3 Arms trafficking and border control

Guiding question:

Were there any reported cases of firearms trafficking during the reporting period?

Were there any activities focused on strengthening border control during the reporting period?

- 6 incidents have been registered related to “Unauthorized import, export, supply, transport, production, exchange, brokering or sale of weapons or explosive materials”. 1 automatic rifle AK-47, 7 pistols (with the marking HS) and 6,299 rounds of ammunition of different calibres have been seized.
 - The Border Police and the Kosovo Customs have registered a total of 24 cases involving weapons, ammunition and their components at BCPs and at the green border: Quantity of seized weapons: 6 hunting rifles, 3 pistols, 1 automatic rifle, 178 rounds of ammunition of different calibres, 2 knives, 3 magazines, 8 electroshock weapons, 3 sprays, 1 iron knuckles, 3 metal bars, 1 bulletproof plate.
 - In framework of operation “ZOLLA,” the Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime within the Department of Serious Crimes (DIOCSC) has seized 20 long automatic firearms. The investigation for this case is still underway and there is an ongoing international cooperation between two countries: Sweden and Germany. There are ongoing cooperation requests with Sweden, including through the Ministry of Justice, more specifically through the Prosecution Office.
- The Kosovo Police has organized a total of 204 operational plans in framework of border control activities, while 3 joint plans carried out by the Customs and Police were reported at the Joint Intelligence, Risk and Threat Analysis Unit (JIRTA). Based on the recommendations provided by JIRTA-NCBM for first- and second-line checks, the border authorities have prepared 305 profiles and based on them have conducted inspections, which have resulted in the detection of weapons, different types of ammunition and firearms components. A total of 24 criminal proceedings have been initiated.
- Activities have been organized in framework of the Tasking and Coordination Group (TCG). More specifically, 4 meetings were organized, measures were taken, as well as needs and capacities were assessed to ensure a more effective border control. With regards to second line checks in BCPs, a total of 13,234 checks were performed (including in buses, trucks, personal vehicles and persons travelling on foot).
 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through the Kosovo Safety & Security Project (KSSP) and the project “Cross-border Integrated Institutional Approach Towards Combating IAT and SALW,” carried out the following activities during the reporting period:
 - training on converted firearms. A total of 25 police officers participated in this training, of which 10 (9 men and 1 women) from North Macedonia and 15 (11 men and 4 women) from Kosovo;
 - a 2-day training was organized for police officers in March 2023 to enhance knowledge about the legal framework on SALW, as well as the collection, analysis and exchange of information, which was attended by a total of 20 participants;
 - The project “Support to firearms investigations”.
 - UNDP/KSSP donated 1 (one) ground penetrating radar (GPR) for the Police and organized a professional training on its usage for three police officers.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

Was a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors during the reporting period?

- Based on the applicable legislation and trends analysis, and in framework of the recommendations provided in analytical reports, JIRTA/NCBM has recommended to law enforcement authorities, especially the Kosovo Customs, in line with their own competences, to increase the level of measures, both within the system as well as through profiles, in order to ensure a more effective control of commercial and non-commercial cargoes crossing BCPs. The Kosovo Customs (KC) have implemented such recommendation.

3.5 Use of EMPACT’s and Europol’s tools for investigations

Guiding question:

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol?

- No, we did not.

3.6 Participation in regional meetings

Guiding question:

Did your jurisdiction participate in the regional meetings of: SALW Commissions process, RASR, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC?

- Yes, we have participated in regional activities such as those organized by SEESAC and others:
 - The 18th South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) meeting - Sarajevo. This meeting was facilitated by SEESAC and gathered senior police investigators, customs officials, prosecutors, ballistics experts, Border Police representatives, as well as regional and international organizations from the six Western Balkans jurisdictions, Moldova and Ukraine.
 - SEESAC and FRONTEX co-organized the workshop to discuss new challenges in the fight against illicit trafficking of firearms, in Belgrade. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the Addendum of FRONTEX Handbook for Border Guards and Customs, which was proposed in relation to the Russian aggression on Ukraine, as well as the risk of armed migrants in the Western Balkans and abroad. Kosovo was represented by representatives of the Police and of the Law Enforcement Directorate within the Customs.
 - The 2nd meeting of the regional working group for the development of a tool for gender-sensitive firearms license approval, in Durrës.
 - The 2nd meeting of the regional working group for the prevention of the use of firearms in domestic violence through risk assessment – Durrës.
 - Meeting in Brussels on the harmonization of the domestic legislation with the EU Acquis on firearms, ammunition and explosives.
 - SEESAC organized the 3rd regional meeting of the Task Force, in Budva, to discuss about the exchange of information on the recent and ongoing campaigns, to increase awareness as well as to discuss about encountered challenges, achieved results and lessons learnt in this area.
 - SEESAC organized the regional training for journalists on the ethical reporting of gender-based violence incidents involving the use of small arms and light weapons – Belgrade. This training covered the gender-based violence phenomenon, the main aspects of violence committed with firearms and the ethics related to the reporting of such incidents. Kosovo was represented by journalists of BIRN Kosovo, Kosovo 2.0 and Internews Kosova.
 - Regional meeting of Criminal Police representatives from the Western Balkans and Moldova organized in Skopje. The meetings focussed on the latest threats and modus operandi in the area of illicit possession and trafficking of firearms.
 - Regional Training on Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT) organized by SEESAC in Belgrade. This training targeted firearms Focal Points from the Western Balkans, Moldova and authorities from Ukraine. The training strengthened the strategic and operational capacities of authorities from South East and East Europe to conduct firearms investigations. Kosovo was represented in this training by representatives of the Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime and of the International Law Enforcement Cooperation Unit (ILECU) within the Kosovo Police.
 - Annual Workshop on Firearms Focal Points in the Western Balkans organized by SEESAC in Belgrade. Experts and representatives of law enforcement agencies across the Western Balkans, including Firearms Focal Points, Criminal Police, Analysis Unit, Risk Analysis Units within the Border Police and Ballistic Laboratories, also participated in this workshop.
 - SEESAC organized the workshop on the collection of Firearms Focal Points intelligence in support of the EMPACT Joint Action Days - Budva. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) from the United Kingdom and EMPACT FIREARMS. The workshop aimed to draft an Intelligence Collection Plan (ICP) before SEE JAD 2023.

- Regional Workshop on the Digital Documentation of the Crime Scene, as well as on Establishing and Maintaining the Chain of Custody, organized by SEESAC in Skopje. The training aimed to build the capacities of Crime Scene Investigation Units in terms of crime scene and evidence photography, as well as to introduce best practices with regards to the detention process. Kosovo was represented at this training by a representative of the Kosovo Police.
- The European Commission, in close cooperation with the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European External Action Service, organized a high-level meeting in Brussels to discuss the implementation of specific actions of the EU action plan on firearms trafficking, including the Western Balkans Roadmap on SALW control. Kosovo was represented by the Minister of Interior and the Deputy Minister of Interior/Head of SALW Commission.
- Regional High-Level Meeting to enhance parliamentary action for sustainable solution to the problem of illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), SEESAC and the Parliament of Albania, in Tirana. Kosovo was represented by representatives of the Committee on Security and Defence Affairs and the representative of the SALW Commission.
- Conference in Tirana on the distribution and exchange of ballistic data between Western Balkans and EU countries.
- Information meeting on Operation "MARS." EMPACT Firearms Kick off meeting - OAP 9 February 2023. Debriefing on JAD 2022 and preparation for JAD 2023.
- Establishment of Firearms Focal Points and standardization of data gathering on firearms at EU level.

3.7 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

Do you collect data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study of UNODC?

- According to the procedure, JIRTA/NCBM gather data for internal needs and for the needs of law enforcement authorities, which are exchanged, as requested. In addition, when requested to report, they contribute, through the FFP mechanism, to reports for national and international agencies, such as the UNODC Global Study on Firearms Trafficking.

3.8 Operation cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol

Guiding question:

Did you have any operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States, INTERPOL during the reporting period? If yes, could you provide details?

- There has been operational cooperation within OP JAD.

3.9 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms?

- There is a higher interest of police officers to obtain legal information on the issue of weapons, as well as on stipulated conditions in cases of incidents. In this framework, there is also a higher level of interest from the Prosecution Office regarding the same issue.
- In addition, the quality of case reporting from the Prosecution Office and the courts has increased.

3.10 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- The challenges are as follows:
 - Having an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases sent for prosecution and adjudicated;
 - Strengthen existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms and encouraging new forms of good practice to counter trafficking of firearms;
 - Direct use of the supporting tools for investigations provided by EMPACT and EUROPOL;
 - DIOCS has requested support through specialized trainings and technical equipment. We have not received an answer yet, but we hope that our requests are in process of being reviewed.
- We have requested support and we have received somehow, but there is still need for further support.

SARAJEVO

3.1 Information exchange between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated

Guiding question:

Is there an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** A Report on the committed criminal offense of unauthorized trade and possession of firearms was submitted in the reporting period in accordance with the Criminal Code of BiH, i.e., the Entity Legislations.
- **Border police BiH:** The BiH BP uses the ESRP system to exchange information between police agencies and prosecutors' offices.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior Affairs:** The signing of an agreement on cooperation with CMIA's on the formation of a single collection of unsolved cases for criminal acts carried out by unknown perpetrators in the territory of the FBiH with firearms through the EVOFINDER ballistic program system is underway.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** There is no single system for the exchange of information, but there is a system of electronic exchange of data from the records of the police, courts and prosecutors' offices, i.e., electronic exchange of data related to firearms for which an investigation has been initiated and a verdict issued by the number of criminal registers and data on persons.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** No, we are still performing data exchange based on orders and decisions, and there is no single database for the exchange of information between the police, prosecutor's office and courts.
- **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior:** There is a unified information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and courts on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated.
- **Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported that they do not have a unified information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and courts on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated.
- **Federal Ministry of Security and Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide any information.

3.2 Diversion of arms exports

Guiding questions:

*Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period?
Was an annual report on arms exports published?*

- **MOFTER: No cases of diversions** were reported. Annual reports are published in cooperation with SESSAC, after informing the Parliament of BiH.
- **ITA: No cases of diversions** were reported. In accordance with Article 32, paragraph (3) of the Law on Control of Foreign Trade in Arms, Military Equipment and Special Purpose Goods, the Indirect Taxation Directorate reports semi-annually to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH on the performed imports and exports of weapons, military equipment and special purpose goods.

3.3 Arms trafficking and border control

Guiding question:

Were there any reported cases of firearms trafficking during the reporting period?

Were there any activities focused on strengthening border control during the reporting period?

- **BiH Prosecutor's office:** We received 2 reports against 10 persons (no data are kept in relation to confiscated items).
- **Country level (Source: Border police BiH; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations; Indirect Taxation Authority; Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):** 1 case (158 pieces of firearms parts).
- **ITA:** In January 2023, the RC Sarajevo Smuggling and Misdemeanor Prevention Group, during the inspection of postal items, found items that resemble firearm parts with value of approx. BAM 1,000.00, and gave them to the Federal Police Administration for further action.
- **Activities (including assessments) aiming to strengthen border control during the reporting period:**
 - Prosecutor's office:** The Prosecutor's Office is in constant contact with police and law enforcement agencies, in particular with the Border Police of BiH and the ITA of BiH.
 - Country level:**
 - Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the 18th South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) meeting that was held on June 13-14, 2023, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina for about 50 participants. Various topics were discussed during the meeting, such as case studies related to firearms crimes and examples of cooperation between investigators, ballistics experts, and prosecutors. The meeting also covered the gender aspects of firearms criminality, emphasizing the relevance of considering gender perspectives in operational responses.
 - Furthermore, we have participated in the workshop to discuss new challenges on countering illicit trafficking of firearms that was organized from 4th to 5th of May 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia by SEESAC in cooperation with FRONTEX in support of EMPACT Operational Action 8.5. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the Addendum to FRONTEX Handbook for Border Guards and Customs. Bosnia and Herzegovina was represented by representatives from the State Investigation and Protection Agency, Border Police, and Indirect Taxation Authority.
 - In addition, SEESAC, in cooperation with FRONTEX, organized a **training of trainers on firearms detection** for the representatives of the Border Police service of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12-16 June. The training was held in the training center of the Police Academy in Croatia, as it has the facilities and equipment needed for the delivery of such specialized trainings. The training manual was developed in line with the provision of both the FRONTEX Handbook and the SOPs for Border Police Services.
 - The Standard Operating Procedures for the Conduct of ITA Officers for the Control of Traffic in Strategic and Dual-Use Goods and the Detection of Radiological Materials, Weapons, Their Essential Spares, Munitions, Drugs and Explosives (SOPs) were adopted in the reporting period.
 - A Joint Exercise of CAE officers with police agencies and the Prosecutor's Office of BiH was held within the framework of the HALT-DIRK project, to combat the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Within the HALT-DIRK project, 2 international exercises were held to combat the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons:
 - 1 exercise with customs, police and prosecutor's office of Serbia;
 - 1 Exercise with Customs, Police and Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro.

A Memorandum of Understanding were signed between the ITA and public postal operators in order to exchange information and prevent illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in postal items data exchange and prevention:

- "JP BH Pošta" d.o.o. Sarajevo;
- Pošta Srpske a.d. Banja Luka;
- HT Pošte Mostar.
- In the period 22-26 June, representatives of BiH customs participated in the study visit for all WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France, organized by UNODC in cooperation with the French Customs. We received information about the organization of work of French Customs, La Poste and Express Courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods. We had the opportunity to observe the work of the French counterparts in the postal depots and the teamwork between

French Customs and La Poste on inspecting suspicious parcels. As a result of the study visit, the designated postal operators (DPO) initiated a review of their internal procedures on risk analysis.

- A meeting between representatives of ITA and Croatia's Customs Administration took place in Zagreb in the period March 13-15, 2023. The meeting focused on the exchange of best experiences and organizational set up of both institutions, with a focus on organizational units competent for fighting inter alia illegal SALW trade. As a part of the meeting, Croatia's Customs Administration organized a short study visit to Zagreb International Airport and the main postal distribution center, presenting a modus operandi between Croatia's Customs and Border Police.
- BiH Customs supported Montenegrin Customs and the SALW Commission of Montenegro to develop the need for assessment for the prevention of firearms trafficking in postal parcels.
- ITA: One X-ray scanner in HP Mostar has been installed and explosive and drug field tests were handed over.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

Was a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors during the reporting period?

- The control mechanism on explosive precursors is **not in place**.

3.5 Use of EMPACT's and Europol's tools for investigations

Guiding question:

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol?

- **Border police BiH:** Encrypted ANOM applications were obtained through Europol.
- **Directorate for coordination of police bodies BiH:** Until June 14, 2023, the Directorate (Department for Cooperation with Europol) used Europol's auxiliary tools, namely platforms: EPE - Europol Platform for Experts and LFE – Large File Exchange.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** All available capacities are currently used.
- **State Investigation and Protection Agency, Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported no activities.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

3.6 Participation in regional meetings

Guiding question:

Did your jurisdiction participate in the regional meetings of: SALW Commissions process, RASR, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** Yes, police officers of the State Investigation and Protection Agency take part in arms control meetings as members of the SALW Coordination Board.
- **Indirect Taxation Authority BiH:**
 - A bilateral meeting of ITA officials with representatives of the Customs Administration of Croatia was held within the framework of the Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) Project, with the aim of strengthening cooperation and exchange of information in this field;
 - ITA officials participated in the Regional Meeting within the HERMES project "Combating the Illicit Trade in Firearms, Their Parts and Ammunition in Parcel Shipments;"

- ITA officials participate in the meetings of the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH;
- Continuous participation in meetings and working groups within the HERMES Project.
- **Prosecutor's Office of BiH:** Prosecutors regularly participate in regional meetings on arms control. In particular, on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH as a member of the Coordination Board, the Prosecutor attended a total of four meetings in the reporting period.
 - The 17th meeting of the Commissions for Small Arms and Light Weapons was organized on July 6, 2023, in Sarajevo, and it brought together over 35 participants from 15 institutions throughout Southeast and Eastern Europe.
 - 18th SEEFEN meeting held on June 13-14, in Sarajevo.
 - **The Regional High-Level Meeting to enhance parliamentary action for sustainable solution to the problem of illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons** organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), and the South-eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the Parliament of Albania on 21-22 June in Tirana.
 - Regional meeting to present the sub-regional report preliminary findings for comments and to foster the exchange of firearms trafficking data among the Western Balkans authorities and countries located along connected routes organized by UNODC on 22 June in Belgrade.

3.7 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

Do you collect data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study of UNODC?

- No, because we did not receive a request for information in an official way.

3.8 Operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol

Guiding question:

Did you have any operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States, INTERPOL during the reporting period? If yes, could you provide details?

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** Exchange of criminal intelligence in the framework of suppression of criminal offenses related to firearms, as well as submission of reports on the performed analysis of data from encrypted applications was performed. As part of the work, information is regularly exchanged through EUROPOL, i.e., all types of assistance offered by EUROPOL are used. Communication and exchange of information were achieved, i.e., operational cooperation in specific investigative cases related to the unauthorized trade of firearms and drugs.
- **Directorate for coordination of police bodies BiH:** Information is exchanged with Europol and EU Member States on a daily basis (answer in question 2.6).
- **Indirect Taxation Authority:**
 - In the reporting period (January 1st to June 30th, 2023), the Regulatory Enforcement Sector, Intelligence Division, received 72 requests from the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies via Interpol's protected line I24/7. Out of a total of 72 requests, 39 requests were received by Interpol and 33 requests by Europol to which we provided timely feedback. Of the total number of requests received, there were no requests related to weapons, ammunition and more;
 - During the indicated period, the Indirect Taxation Authority participated in the preparation of the SEE JAD 2023 operational action aimed at preventing the illegal trade in firearms, ammunition etc;

- Within the UNODC-WCO (SCO) Container Control Program, ITA officers participate in the work of the Joint Container Shipment Control Teams at CR/BP Gradiška and CR/BP Bijača and the Container Shipment Control Team at Sarajevo Airport (ACCU).
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** The Federal Police Administration continuously exchanged information with international police agencies through the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH until June 14, 2023. Since June 14, 2023, it is doing it through the National/Joint Contact Point of Bosnia and Herzegovina for cooperation with Europol.
- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported not having direct operational cooperation during the reporting period.
- **Border police BiH, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

3.9 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms?

- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Una-Sana Canton stipulates that illegal possession of SALW is a criminal offense, which was not the case in the previous Law.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, these activities are manifested by providing comments on proposals and suggestions when launching initiatives to change criminal legislation.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** Concrete activities have been undertaken in terms of implementing the provisions of the "Instructions on the conduct of prosecutors and authorized officials in detecting criminal offenses, perpetrators and the conduct of an investigation" which has been adopted by the federal level of government and should be applied in all cantons. The said Instruction refers to improvement of the procedure for taking evidence, and thus the improvement of criminal prosecution and sentencing in connection with abuse, illicit possession and trade of firearms. Instructions have been implemented in the Police Directorate of the Canton 10 MOI.
- **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** reported having undertaken activities to improve the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms. However, they provided no details.
- **Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, and Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior:** reported that no activities took place.
- Other entities did not provide any information.

3.10 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **Una-Sana Canton:** Yes, it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of investigators, primarily the capacities of detectors and x-rays for detecting weapons, ammunition and essential parts, train officers, and technically equip the Police Directorate. We have not yet requested support.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** Yes, it is necessary to purchase new workstations, servers and storage, and other accompanying hardware (network equipment, printers, etc.).
- **Indirect Taxation Authority:**

- The ITA expressed the need for international assistance, both financial and technical through its participation in the work of the SALW Coordination Board, as well as through its work on the development of a new Strategy and Action Plan for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH (2020-2024).
- Support is required for the training of officers for the use of the SOP and the use of specialist equipment for non-intrusive customs controls.
- In order to prevent illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, it is necessary to further equip border crossings, customs posts and mobile teams with specialized equipment for detecting weapons and weapon parts, which was partially implemented within the HALT project.
- Assistance for further equipping and specialist training of officers is necessary.
- It is necessary to create an inventory of equipment, perform calibration, maintenance and procurement plan in accordance with the number of border crossings and customs offices.

SKOPJE

3.1 Information exchange between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated

Guiding question:

Is there an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated?

- There is **no such information exchange system in place**.

3.2 Diversion of arms exports

Guiding questions:

Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period?

Was an annual report on arms exports published?

- In this period, **we have not received information about diversion of arms exports**.
- The SALW Commission submitted an Annual Report on the commission's work to the Government of North Macedonia. In the reporting period, 4 ammunition exports were carried out. There is no weapons production in North Macedonia.

3.3 Arms trafficking and border control

Guiding question:

Were there any reported cases of firearms trafficking during the reporting period?

Were there any activities focused on strengthening border control during the reporting period?

- In the period January - June 2023, the Ministry of Interior has uncovered 84 criminal cases in the area of illegal arms trade, with 75 pieces of firearms and four hand grenades seized, then 40,004 pieces of ammunition, 12,652 firecrackers, 125 pyrotechnics rockets, 93 fireworks, two "cannon shot" firecrackers, two crossbows, 22 frames and 41 other parts of weapons.
- From 19 April, 2023, a joint operation of FRONTEX was established in North Macedonia. FRONTEX is deployed at BC Tabanovce and BC Bogorodica and at the green southern border (police stations for border surveillance). With the deployment of members of FRONTEX on the border of North Macedonia, the operational capacities of the Macedonian border police to detect illegal trade in SALW have increased.

- In addition, with the OSCE support, SOPs and training manual for real-time information exchange on SALW-related incidents were developed. Infrastructure upgrades at four border crossings and the MoIA HQ for installing EUROPOL's SIENA system are in progress. Furthermore, representatives of North Macedonia participated in the study visit to Slovenia on real-time information exchange and implementation of international best practices regarding SALW incidents.
- The infrastructure upgrades at three out of nine K9 facilities were completed, and K9 HQ was opened on 14 June 2023. SOPs and training manual for K9 deployment were developed. We also received 14 specialized vehicles and 3 specialized trailers.
- The regulatory framework of engaging K9 units within law enforcement operations was reviewed by international experts. Furthermore, a study visit on best practices in K9 management was organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

Was a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors during the reporting period?

- The control mechanism for explosive precursors is implemented by the Customs Administration and relevant institutions responsible for the importation of explosive precursors.

3.5 Use of EMPACT's and Europol's tools for investigations

Guiding question:

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol?

- During the reporting period, we did not use any of the Europol and EMPACT support tools.

3.6 Participation in regional meetings

Guiding question:

Did your jurisdiction participate in the regional meetings of: SALW Commissions process, RASR, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC, etc?

- Yes, representatives of North Macedonia participated in regional meetings related to arms control. In addition to the previously mentioned meetings, we attended the following meetings:
 - South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) (Sarajevo, 13 and 14.06.2023) organized by SEESAC;
 - From January 30 to February 1, 2023, participated in a workshop organized by Europol for Operational Action OA2.2 OPERATION MARS as part of the Impact Firearms OA 2.2 IPA, held in Lisbon, Portugal;
 - Participation in a meeting organized by EMPACT, familiarization with the planned activities for the current year, 09.02.2023, Hague;
 - Participation in a debriefing meeting - SEE JAD 2023, on 27/28.02.2023 Sofia;
 - Participation in a meeting organized by Impact for Weapons, Hague, Netherlands, 08-11.02.2023;
 - Presentation of the universal postal union after Operation Impact - AMSTRONG, identification of contact points, on 21.03.2023 in Kosovo, Prishtina, organised by UNDOC-GEP;
 - Study visit in the field of small and light weapons and ballistics from 26 to 31 March 2023 in Paris and Lyon, France organized by the Regional Attaché for Internal Security based in Zagreb. This visit provided the insights into the operational workflow of French Customs, La Poste, and Express Courier companies, specifically regarding risk analysis and inspection of parcels suspected to contain prohibited goods. In addition, the MoU between Macedonian Post and the customs was signed and SOP on countering illicit goods developed for both organizations.

- Furthermore, in the period 22-26 June, representatives of North Macedonia customs participated in the study visit for all WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France, organized by UNODC in cooperation with the French Customs. We received information about the organization of work of French Customs, La Poste and Express Courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods. We had the opportunity to observe the work of the French counterparts in the postal depots and the teamwork between French Customs and La Poste on inspecting suspicious parcels. As a result of the study visit, the designated postal operators (DPO) initiated a review of their internal procedures on risk analysis.
- A meeting to review existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Memorandum of Understanding in postal and customs services within the Hermes project, focusing on countering the trade in firearms, their parts, and ammunition in express and postal shipments. The meeting occurred on April 26, 2023, in Skopje - organized by UNODC;
- Participation in a working meeting at the headquarters of Europol, organized by Empact - Firearms from 14 to 16.06.2023, Hague.

3.7 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

Do you collect data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study of UNODC?

- Yes, within the scope of work of the Department for International Police Cooperation, data is collected for the Global Study on Illicit Trade in Firearms, information is exchanged and delivered to the appropriate organizational units, and for the most part the same is realized through the distribution of INTERPOL's Purple Notices and the reports prepared by the General Secretariat, as well as through EUROPOL's Bulletin which is prepared quarterly.

3.8 Operation cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol

Guiding question:

Did you have any operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States, INTERPOL during the reporting period? If yes, could you provide details?

- Yes, during the reporting period, operational cooperation with Europol and Interpol was achieved (both with EU member states and with other countries). At the same time, a total of 39 cases were opened within INTERPOL, of which 19 are for the search for firearms, and 20 are operational information and checks on persons involved in NT with firearms and ammunition.
- In the reporting period, the implementation of the Kalibar project continued, which is implemented in cooperation with INTERPOL and UNODC, the purpose of which is to improve the capacities and support in the implementation of investigations related to NT with firearms.
- Within the framework of EUROPOL, during the reporting period, 4 cases were established for operational exchange of information.
- In addition, we participated in the operation "Conversus" that took place on 20-24 February 2023 and organized under the EMPACT Fighting Crime Together platform, in close cooperation with Europol, and aims to fight the trafficking of converted firearms and ammunition.
- Workshop on new challenges in the fight against illegal trade in firearms, organized by SEESAC in collaboration with FRONTEX and EMPACT, held on May 4 and 5, 2023, in Belgrade.
- As part of the UNODC and INTERPOL project promoting international cooperation in cases of firearms trafficking, a report on trafficking of arms from, within, and through the Western Balkans was presented on June 22 in Belgrade, organized by UNODC
- In Veles, SAWL NC with OSCE for communication strategy.

3.9 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms?

- No activities were reported.

3.10 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions: *Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?*

- Needs of the Criminal Intelligence Analysis Department:
 - procure licences for i2 Analyst's Notebook, version 9 or 9.4.;
 - procure a web app for visualization and reporting;
 - trainings for "Power BI," "Data Science," "Anacapa," specialized trainings for operational and strategic analysis, risk analysis, social media monitoring, exchange of experience and trainings for analysis of crimes with arms.
- Needs of the Criminal Police Department:
 - training for police officers on new trends in firearms and new routes of movement of weapons;
 - training on conducting investigations into firearms-related crime;
 - trainings on converted weapons.
- Needs of the Customs Administration (equipment):
 - 10 endoscopes;
 - 6 Handheld Z Backscatter® imaging system for detecting drugs and contraband;
 - 2 thermal imaging drones;
 - 5 thermal imaging binoculars;
 - 10 Handheld Solutions for Chemical Response;
 - 100 Tactical Flashlights;
 - 100 multi-tools;
 - 1 Prisoner transport vehicle.

TIRANA

3.1 Information exchange between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated

Guiding question:

Is there an information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor's office and court on FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated?

- The Police Case Management System is operational for all criminal events but is not specifically adapted for FAE and is yet to be fully implemented with the Prosecution Office.

3.2 Diversion of arms exports

Guiding questions:

*Were there any cases of diversion of arms exports reported during the reporting period?
Was an annual report on arms exports published?*

- No, there are no reported cases of diversion of arms exports.
- The National Report on Arms Exports is regularly published in the following website <http://www.akshe.gov.al/>. Tirana provided data for the drafting of the Regional Report on Arms Export for 2020. The Report was finalized and published on 15 December 2022 in the following link https://www.seesac.org/f/docs/Regional-Reports-on-Arms-Exports_1/Regional-report-on-arms-export-for-2020_web_.pdf.

3.3 Arms trafficking and border control

Guiding question:

Were there any reported cases of firearms trafficking during the reporting period?

Were there any activities focused on strengthening border control during the reporting period?

- The State Police has referred to the Prosecution Office 9 cases related to firearms and ammunition trafficking, involving 29 perpetrators falling under Article 278/a of the Criminal Code, of which **5 cases are proactive investigations**. 323 cases are related to illicit possession of firearms, as provided for in Articles 278 and 280 of the Criminal Code, of which **19 cases are proactive investigations**. The following have been seized during the identified cases of firearms trafficking: **10 (ten) firearms, 1 automatic firearm, 5 pistol magazines, 2,390 rounds of ammunition, 6 (six) remote-controlled mines, 45 detonation fuses, 41 pieces of items suspected as explosive substances, 3 (three) rolls of black primer cord**, more specifically:
 - 6 (six) "GLOCK" pistols, with obliterated numbers and the marking "Glock Austria 9x19", seized at the border;
 - 1 (one) "HERSTAL" pistol, seized at the border;
 - 1 (one) "BROWNING" pistol, seized at the border;
 - 6 (six) flashlights with the writing "VECTOR Optics" (which are mounted in the bottom part of the Glock pistols barrel), seized at the border;
 - 4 (four) black pistol magazines;
 - 201 rounds of 9 mm calibre, seized at the border;
 - 1 (one) "Zastava" pistol, 7.65 mm calibre, seized at the border;
 - 1 (one) pistol magazine containing 5 (five) rounds of 7.65 mm calibre, seized at the border;
 - 3 (three) packages wrapped up with transparent duct tape. A mobile phone was attached to each one of these packages, similarly to the case of remote-controlled mines.
- In one of the cases of firearms trafficking, the following were found at the perpetrator's house:
 - 1 (one) Model 56 automatic firearm, 7.62 mm calibre, manufactured in China;
 - 1 (one) Model 56 rifle, 7.62 mm calibre;
 - 1160 rounds of ammunition Model 53, 7.62 mm calibre;
 - 994 rounds of ammunition Model 56, 7.62 mm calibre;
 - 35 rounds of ammunition Model 54, 7.62 mm calibre;
 - 3 (three) objects suspected of being remote-controlled mines, which contained "Nokia" mobile phones attached to them;
 - 41 pieces of cylinder-shaped objects, suspected of being explosive substances;
 - 45 pieces of detonation fuses;
 - 3 rolls of black primer cord.
- Following a needs assessment, SEESAC provided comprehensive support to Border Police services in order to develop SOPs, purchase equipment and organize training. The Standard Operating Procedures for the Border Police regarding the fight against trafficking of firearms have been approved by the respective authorities. This was followed by the drafting of the technical specifications for the required equipment, in cooperation with the Albanian Border Police services. The procurement process initiated in the second half of 2022.
- Training on firearms detection for representatives of Border Police and Customs of Albania and Kosovo, organized by SEESAC and FRONTEX on 10-14 July 2023 in Zagreb, Croatia. The training aimed at enhancing the participants expertise in firearms detection. The training included instructions on how to use specialized equipment and assess

risk indicators related to potential firearms smugglers, to understand the post-detection procedures, such as the identification of firearms, essential parts and additional parts (or modified ones), and explosives.

- Representatives of the General Directorate of Customs participated in the workshop organized by SEESAC and FRONTEX on 4-5 May 2023, in Belgrade, Serbia, to discuss the Addendum of FRONTEX Handbook for Border Guards and Customs, which was proposed in relation to the Russian aggression on Ukraine, as well as the risk of armed migrants in the Western Balkans and abroad. The discussions during the workshop contributed to the drafting of the Addendum of the Handbook.
- The project with OSCE is on-going as well as the planned and approved activities by memorandum no. 6149/5 (MoI) and no. 51 (OSCE), dated October 5, 2021, endorsed by MoI and the OSCE. The third Executive Committee meeting of the project took place on June 2023. Members of the Executive Committee attended the meeting, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Project Donors, Albanian State Police and the OSCE Presence in Albania. During the meeting, members from OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation Support Unit in the OSCE Secretariat, donor representatives, officials of the Ministry of Interior, Albanian State Police and other partner institutions discussed on the project's progress and future plans.
- In the period 22-26 June, representatives of Albanian customs participated in the study visit for all WB jurisdictions to Charles de Gaulle Airport, France, organized by UNODC in cooperation with the French Customs. Information was received about the organization of work of French Customs, La Poste and Express Courier companies and the application of risk analysis to identify parcels containing prohibited goods.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

Was a control mechanism in place for explosive precursors during the reporting period?

- Currently, there is no legal framework on explosives precursors and the mechanism for controlling explosives precursors is not specifically regulated for this aspect. However, there is a legal framework in place on chemical substances and preparations, which aims to regulate the administration of chemical substances and preparations in order to protect the lives and health of people and animals, as well as to protect the environment against threats posed by hazardous substances. In this case, the supervising authority is the customs authority in the border crossing points, during their import/export.
- The Action Plan 2022-2024 provides for an analysis of the existing legal framework and determines the institutional obligations for drafting the law on precursors, in compliance with the Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors, amending Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 98/2013.

3.5 Use of EMPACT's and Europol's tools for investigations

Guiding question:

Did you use any of the supporting tools for investigations offered by EMPACT and Europol?

- Yes. Both from the information received mainly from the OP of the JAD type under the Empact platform, as well as from the information sent by Europol, FFP has produced relevant analysis with the district prosecutor's office and have initiated investigations in Albania. Recently, joint investigations have been suggested in a specific case with Bulgaria.

3.6 Participation in regional meetings

Guiding question:

Did your jurisdiction participate in the regional meetings of: SALW Commissions process, RASR, SEEFEN, SEEFEG, RACVIAC?

- Yes, specified above at point 3.3.

3.7 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

Do you collect data for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study of UNODC?

- Yes, Albania has contributed with data on firearms in the reports generated by UNODC. Representatives of the Ministry of Interior and State Police participated in the regional meeting organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under its Global Firearms Programme (GFP), to present the findings of the Report on trafficking of firearms towards, through and from the Western Balkans, on 22 June 2023. The preliminary research findings were presented during the meeting and were consulted with Western Balkans representatives with the aim of supporting firearms trafficking data exchange between Western Balkans authorities and authorities of transit and origin countries.

3.8 Operation cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States and Interpol

Guiding question:

Did you have any operational cooperation with FRONTEX, Europol, EU Member States, INTERPOL during the reporting period? If yes, could you provide details?

- The **border police** structures continuously cooperate with Frontex at the Border Crossing Points in order to prevent firearms trafficking. We exchange regular information with Europol regarding investigations carried out by the State Police, but also with our counterparts in the Member States as well as with the ones in the Western Balkans. Moreover, the State Police exchanges regular information with Interpol on wanted persons, implicated in criminal activities as well as it receives requests from Interpol member countries to check for weapons in the internal SIMA system, etc.
- Cooperation continues in the framework of the implementation of the JO FOA Western Balkan Joint Operation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency - FRONTEX at the state border with Greece.

3.9 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms?

- No activities were reported.

3.10 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- None reported.

ROADMAP GOAL 4

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

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness among licensed private and legal entities about the danger of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE. 2. Increase awareness of FAE producers about risks of diversion. 3. Increase awareness among general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE. 4. Increase awareness among young men on the dangers of misuse of SALW/firearms; 5. Increase awareness of dangers of celebratory shooting. 6. Increase awareness and reduce the misuses of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. 7. Increase the partnership with, and awareness of media on the importance of adequate reporting on firearms misuse and firearms-enabled violence. 8. Increase confidence in security institutions as providers of adequate and equal safety for all through community-society-regional outreach activities.
Progress information on Goal 4 Overall Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE; 2. Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion; 3. Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE, including activities specifically targeting young men and activities on the dangers of celebratory shootings; 4. Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence; 5. Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Progress information on Goal 4 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (retail shops, security companies, shooting ranges, etc.) on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE?

- Within the implementation of the regional IPA project “Support for enhancing the fight against the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans”, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior participated in the Western Balkan Awareness Raising Task Force which aims to raise awareness and operational capacity among the main actors in the Western Balkans and contribute to standardization of design, management, monitoring and evaluation of awareness campaigns as well as sharing of best practices. Police officers of the Ministry of the Interior participated in the Third Regional Meeting of the Task Force within the project “Support for enhancing the fight against the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of

small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans,” which was held in Budva, Montenegro in the period 4–5 April 2023.

- After the Government adopted Conclusion 05 No. 56-3807/2023 of 4 May 2023, the Minister of Interior ordered verification of the fulfilment of the legal requirements by the owners (revision of all issued permits for possession and carrying of firearms) and compliance with legal requirements for safe storage and keeping of weapons.
- During the reporting period, a total of 15,624 measures were imposed, and 10,947 previously imposed measures were extended, while 630 measures imposed for events related to the prevention of domestic violence were violated.
- It was also ordered that, within three months, the operation of all shooting ranges in the territory of Serbia be checked regarding the fulfilment of the requirements for the safe storage and keeping of weapons, as well as record keeping. In the period 8 May – 4 August 2023, there were 100 inspections of shooting ranges, which resulted in drafting 87 minutes, ordering 178 measures, and filing four requests for initiation of misdemeanour proceedings and eight cases of weapon seizure.
- During the reporting period, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications announced nine contests in the field of public information, where, through the more detailed criteria of the contest, the priority topic “preventing the misuse of weapons” was defined.

4.2 Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- No such activities were reported.

4.3 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE

Guiding questions:

Were any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE?

Were there any activities specifically targeting young men?

Were any awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on dangers of celebratory shooting during the reporting period?

- In the period 22 December 2021 – 17 January 2022 and 23 December 2022 – 16 January 2023, SEESAC developed and implemented two regional awareness-raising campaigns: “Celebrate with Your Heart – Not Your Gun” #NeBudiKaoMiki and “Celebrate with Your Heart” – #BudiZvezdaZurke. The campaigns warned the public about the dangers of celebratory shooting and misuse of pyrotechnics. The new campaign directly followed and integrated lessons learned from the last year's campaign “Celebrate with Your Heart – Not Your Gun” #NeBudiKaoMiki.

4.4 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

- The Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence (The Official Gazette, Nos. 94/2016, and 10/2023 - other law) prescribes that, when assessing risk, special attention should be paid to weapon possession. When domestic violence is reported, the police check whether the person owns a weapon. If they find a weapon, they seize it, issue

a certificate of temporary seizure of items and initiate the procedure for weapon confiscation. When they learn of weapons in illegal possession, they take measures to find and temporarily seize them and file criminal charges according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

- In the period 1 January – 30 June 2023, within family and partner relationships, **seven people were killed with the use of firearms, six females and one male (a child)**. Out of six females, four were killed with the use of firearms in legal possession and two with the use of firearms in illegal possession. One male was killed with the use of a service weapon - a pistol.
- During the reporting period, a total of 15,624 measures were imposed, and 10,947 previously imposed measures were extended, while 630 measures imposed for events related to the prevention of domestic violence were violated.
- On 24 April 2023, the MoI RS representatives attended the Conference on multi-sectoral prevention of domestic violence and reduction of the risk of firearm misuse in the context of domestic violence, femicide and suicide, which was organized by the UNDP.

4.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- In order to fulfil Goal 4 - By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy - and bearing in mind the importance of raising the level of awareness of citizens, young people, children, women, as well as legal entities and entrepreneurs with the aim to reduce the misuse and illegal proliferation of firearms, as well as all kinds of danger, it is necessary that government authorities, in accordance with their competences, organize seminars and training courses, with the support of international organizations or bilateral donors.

PODGORICA

4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (retail shops, security companies, shooting ranges, etc.) on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE?

- **Awareness-raising activities were not implemented** but some are planned.

4.2 Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- **Awareness-raising activities were not implemented** but are planned. Low level of awareness about the possibility of diversion of weapons and their parts due to the gaps in the production process control; minimum regulations,

as well as requirements regarding safety and control and supervision of explosives producers and legal entities using explosives; there are no regulations on precursors.

4.3 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE

Guiding questions:

Were any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE?

Where there any activities specifically targeting young men?

Were any awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on dangers of celebratory shooting during the reporting period?

- The activities were implemented through the campaign **“Respect life, return weapons,”** and by being present in the media, giving statements on seizures of illegal weapons.
- The OSCE Mission supported the development and design of the public information campaign aimed at raising awareness of the dangers and harmful effects of the misuse and proliferation of firearms, ammunition and explosives. Several planning and thematic meetings were organized.
- Members of the SALW Commission took part in planning and designing them. The continuation of the campaign is planned for and possible after the adoption of amendments to the Law on Weapons.
- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the **Third meeting of the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force on 4 and 5 April in Budva**. The Task Force explored the role of the media in awareness-raising efforts and how more strategic work can turn them into a powerful campaign asset. Guidelines tailored to Ministries of the Interior and police forces in the region on better communication with the media on gender-based violence with the use of SALW and the interest in other activities were discussed.
- There were no direct activities for the young men population.
- The activities were based on the police organization communicating and giving statements about refraining while celebrating the New Year’s and bigger religious holidays.
- SEESAC launched the awareness-raising campaign **“Celebrate with your heart, not your gun,”** warning everyone of the inherent dangers of celebratory shooting and the use of pyrotechnic devices. The Police Administration joined this activity by sharing the content on social media.

4.4 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

- There is a low level of awareness on the widespread misuse of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence and the institutional response is not developed. The Operational Team for Combating Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women holds regular meetings. Functional database on domestic violence has been designed and established, and it enables the exchange of reports and notifications on domestic violence between the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Interior. It is a complex software solution that enables automated exchange of reports and notifications between two key sectors, the Ministry of Interior and the Police Directorate on one hand, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare on the other. The database contains all statutory, necessary data on all participants in the case of reported violence, potential victims, perpetrators and children, on measures taken, misdemeanour and criminal charges and the estimated degree of risk. The database is the result of a joint initiative of two programmes - the Social Welfare Information System, namely the social card and UNDP and EU project for gender equality.

- Representatives of Montenegro participated in the Second meeting of the Regional Working Group for the development of a tool for prevention of misuse of firearms in domestic violence organized from 23 to 25 May 2023 in Durres, Albania. The meeting, organized by SEESAC, was aimed at further development of a comprehensive tool that efficiently detects and responds to risks related to the presence and misuse of firearms in domestic violence situations.

4.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding question:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes, support is needed for implementing the activities targeted at weapons producers, sellers and licensed persons for raising the awareness of the harm of diversion of weapons and precursors.
- No, support has not been requested. bb

PRISTINA

4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (retail shops, security companies, shooting ranges, etc.) on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE?

- There has not been any special activity, but, if requested, and in cases of inspections, advice and information is regularly provided to entities dealing with FAE in order to increase their awareness on the proper storage conditions, as well as on the use or misuse of firearms by customers.

4.2 Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- So far, we have not had manufacturers, only interested entities, which have been informed.

4.3 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE

Guiding questions:

Were any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE?

Were there any activities specifically targeting young men?

Were any awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on dangers of celebratory shooting during the reporting period?

- The SALW Commission has organized a meeting to coordinate the campaign “Celebrate with your heart, not your gun.” This campaign started in June and continued in July and August 2023. The following activities have taken place:
 - Preparation of campaign materials, such as: leaflets, banners, keychains, notebooks, bags, etc.;
 - Meetings with members of Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs) and gastronomy representatives in 3 communes (Gjilan, Prizren and Peja);
- Activities have been organized to increase the awareness of youth in middle and high schools on the risk and misuse of SALW. Meetings were organized in 6 schools with the participation of about 630 students and professors, and during such activities, awareness brochures were handed over and important issues for preventing SALW misuse and abuse were discussed.

4.4 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

- During awareness activities, the Police has continuously focused on the prevention of domestic violence, as well as in increasing citizens awareness on the misuse of firearms and opportunities to timely report such cases to law enforcement bodies.

4.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding question:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Support in lowering the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, by organizing trainings, visits, practices of electronic reporting, as well as by linking the databases of relevant institutions.
 - Support should also continue in other awareness-raising campaigns against SALW misuse in general, and celebratory shooting in particular.
- We have received support, especially with regards to the campaign “Celebrate with your heart, not your gun.”

SARAJEVO

4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (retail shops, security companies, shooting ranges, etc.) on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE?

- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** The Federal Police Administration has competences only for business entities engaged in the production, transport and trade of explosive materials for use in the economy. No action was taken on the matter during the reporting period.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, in the reporting period, the Commission for Supervision of the Implementation of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition warned legal and natural persons who trade, operate or hold weapons about the essential facts in order to consistently apply the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the USC.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes. Through the formation of commissions and inspection supervision for the operation of retail facilities where weapons and ammunition are sold, as well as the agencies for the protection of people and property.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Our ministry has established a commission through which it controls the determination of conditions for the safe keeping and storage of weapons, the space and technical conditions of civilian shooting ranges, as well as the conditions that must be met by persons registered to perform the activity of repairing and converting weapons.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior** and **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** organized outreach activities but provided no further details.
- **Brcko District Police, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Canton Sarajevo Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported not having conducted any outreach activities.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior** and **Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

4.2 Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- **Country level:** There were no specifically planned activities except for contacts at the request of the manufacturer and during the regular inspection.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** Yes, through the PILLAR Project.
- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported that no awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers took place in the reporting period.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** and **Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

4.3 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE

Guiding questions:

1. *Were any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE?*
 2. *Where there any activities specifically targeting young men?*
 3. *Were any awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on dangers of celebratory shooting during the reporting period?*
- Awareness-raising activities conducted or planned **among the general population:**
 - **Country level (Source: Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):**
 - The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the Third Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Awareness Raising organized by SEESAC in Budva on April 4-5, 2023. By fostering information sharing on recent, on-going, and awareness-raising campaigns currently in preparatory phase, the meeting allowed the representatives of the Western Balkan jurisdictions to discuss challenges encountered, results achieved, and lessons learned in the area. The Task Force explored the role media play in the awareness-raising efforts and how more strategic engagement with them can turn them into a powerful asset of a campaign.
 - Journalists from the portal "Direkt" from Trebinje and Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, attended the workshop **Regional training for journalists on ethical reporting of gender-based violence incidents with the use of small arms and light weapons** that was organized by SEESAC from March 28 to 30, 2023 in Belgrade. The workshop covered the phenomenon of gender-based violence, key aspects of violence committed with firearms, and ethics surrounding the reporting on these events both in narrative and visual form.
 - **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the Ministry of the Interior of the USC conducted a "WEAPON KILLS" (Oružje ubija) campaign in which the destructive use, illegal possession and improper storage of weapons were presented to vulnerable categories, especially children.
 - **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes. When training an applicant for an authorization to acquire firearms in the phase of fulfilling special conditions prescribed by the Law on Arms and Ammunition.
 - **Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior:** The implementation of awareness raising on small arms and light weapons in BiH is being prepared, UNDP – PILLAR.
 - **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** A number of campaigns are actively implemented in cooperation with UNDP, OSCE and other institutions.
 - **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, campaign related to the same.
 - **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** The operational actions "Harvest" and "Peace and Good" („Žetva“ i „Mir i dobro“), activities are continuously carried out to raise public awareness of the dangers of abuse, illicit possession and trade of firearms, ammunition and explosives. Promotion on local radio stations and distribution of leaflets at frequent locations in Livno, Tomislavgrad and Drvar on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of firearms are carried out as well.
 - **Brcko District Police** reported having conducted such activities but did not provide any details.
 - **Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior** reported not having conducted any such activities in the reporting period.
 - **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** In the reporting period, awareness campaigns on the dangers of gun abuse were carried out, as follows:
 - “Weapons do not protect, weapons kill” - a campaign implemented with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP BiH) and the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the project “Prevention and Reduction of the Presence of Illegal Weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (PILLAR);
 - Mini campaign on the danger of misuse of weapons organized within the campaign of the Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska and the Women's Network "MOI RS-RS WPON". The campaign was supported by the UNDP in BiH through the Project "Digitalization and Institutional and Regional Cooperation";
 - “Respect life, not guns” (Poštuj život, ne oružje)- a new UNDP-supported campaign has begun.

- **Ministry of Interior Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.
- Awareness-raising activities **specifically targeting young men:**
 - **Brcko District Police:** Yes, Secondary schools.
 - **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the Ministry of the Interior of the USC conducted a "WEAPON KILLS" (Oružje ubija) campaign in which the destructive use, illegal possession and improper storage of weapons were presented to vulnerable categories, especially children.
 - **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Educational lectures were held by police officers in educational institutions.
 - **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, campaign related to the same.
 - **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** As part of the PILLAR project, the campaign "Weapons do not protect, weapons kill" („Oružje ne štiti, oružje ubija“) was implemented in 3 (three) secondary schools (In May 2023, police officers of the Drvar Police Station in the "Drvar" secondary school held a lecture for first grade students, police officers of the Livno Police Station and the Uniformed Police Sector in the "S.S. Kranjčević" secondary vocational school held lectures for second and third grade students, and police officers of the Glamoč Police Station held lectures to second and third grade students in the "Tin Ujević" secondary school).
 - **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior and Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior** reported not having conducted any such activities in the reporting period.
 - **Country level, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.
- Awareness-raising activities on dangers of **celebratory shooting:**
 - **Country level (Source: Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):** SEESAC has designed and implemented a regional online awareness campaign Celebrate with your heart - #be the star of the party (Slavi srcem – #BudiZvezdaZurke) between December 23, 2022, and January 16, 2023. The campaign warned the public about the dangers of celebratory shooting and the use of pyrotechnic devices. The campaign directly builds on and integrates the lessons learned from last year's "Celebrate with Your Heart – # Don't BeLikeMiki" (Slavi srcem – #NeBudiKaoMiki) campaign. The Ministry of the Interior participated in the campaign and promoted it on its official Facebook page.
 - **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** Through the work of the police in the community when reporting public gatherings.
 - **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Special plans are drawn up with the aim of combating and reducing this phenomenon during the festive periods.
 - **Brcko District Police, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior** reported not having conducted any such activities in the reporting period.
 - **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

4.4 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes. Activities are carried out in the field by police officers in charge of community policing, with special reference to families where broken family relationships are evident. A lecture was held for police officers on the topic: "Acting of police officers on reports of domestic violence and implementation of

protective measures". Cooperation was established with association "Vive žene" Tuzla, regarding the education of police officers carried out on the topic: "Gender-sensitive and victim-oriented approach". Lectures were held on this topic in two modules, and lectures were planned in six modules.

- **Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior:** The issue is covered in the training of police officers on the topic of domestic violence. There was no campaign outside the police.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Regarding the answer to this question, we emphasize that we are constantly monitoring this phenomenon and working on its suppression in the performance of regular tasks and tasks, in particular given the fact that there was an increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires active cooperation of all competent institutions in solving this problem.
- **West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, planned activity in cooperation with UNDP.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** 1 police officer (investigator for sexual offences, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings) and 1 civil servant (weapons inspector) participated in a focus group discussion on preventing the misuse of firearms in domestic violence organized by SEESAC, UNDP
- **Brcko District Police, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** reported not having conducted such activities.
- **Country level, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, and Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

4.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding question:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **No answers were provided.**

SKOPJE

4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (retail shops, security companies, shooting ranges, etc.) on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE?

- A second cycle of small arms and light weapons management courses was held under the auspices of the OSCE by the MT team from Austria, from 3-13 April 2023.
- The Ministry of Interior is regularly communicating with legal entities who are dealing with firearms, as well as private companies providing personal and property security.

4.2 Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- There have been no activities to inform FAE producers about the risks of diversion of FAE export. In North Macedonia there is no production of firearms, just ammunition. The Ministry of Interior has regular meetings with the ammunition manufacturer in the country and informs them about existing risks in case of ammunition diversion.

4.3 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE

Guiding questions:

Were any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE?

Where there any activities specifically targeting young men?

Were any awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on dangers of celebratory shooting during the reporting period?

- Representatives from North Macedonia's Small Arms and Light Weapons National Commission (SAWL NC) participated in the Third Regional Meeting of the Awareness Task Force organized by SEESAC on April 4 and 5, 2023, in Budva, Montenegro. The meeting facilitated the exchange of information on recent, ongoing, and upcoming awareness campaigns, allowing representatives from Western Balkan jurisdictions to discuss challenges, share results, and learn valuable lessons in the field.
- Initiated on 23 December, 2022, and concluded in mid-January 2023, the Regional Social Media Awareness Campaign 'Celebrate With Your Heart #Bethestaroftheparty' aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of celebratory shootings and the misuse of pyrotechnics across the Western Balkans. The campaign, implemented in all local languages, featured posts and ads primarily on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and the Google Ads network. Building directly on the success of the 2022 campaign 'Celebrate with your heart - #Don'tBeLikeJoe,' the #Bethestaroftheparty campaign achieved significantly better results. The Police joined this activity by sharing the content on social media.
- With the support of OSCE, a leaflet on the mandatory recertification of legal weapons was developed and distributed through local police, as well as an awareness-raising video for the mandatory recertification of weapons in legal possession that was published on social media and television.

4.4 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

- Focus group discussions organized in Skopje by SEESAC, conducted from April 26 to 27, 2023, included participants from the ESE Association, the Department for Domestic Violence in the Violent Crime Unit, the Department of Internal Affairs, and representatives from police stations in Gostivar, Kumanovo, Skopje, Tetovo, and Veles. The objective of these focus group meetings was to address the main challenges in preventing the misuse of firearms in domestic violence, document the various ways firearms impact women's safety and well-being, and exchange ideas on how to enhance the institutional response to adequately address the risks associated with the presence of firearms in the context of domestic violence.

4.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding question:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?



- Continuing to implement campaigns to increase awareness of the misuse of firearms.

TIRANA

4.1 Awareness raising/outreach activities for licensed private and legal entities on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities held or planned during the reporting period among licensed private and legal entities (retail shops, security companies, shooting ranges, etc.) on the risks of misuse and illicit proliferation of FAE?

- No.

4.2 Awareness raising/outreach activities for FAE producers on the risks of diversion

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- Not relevant since there are no producers.

4.3 Public awareness raising activities on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE

Guiding questions:

Were any awareness-raising activities conducted or planned among the general population, both women and men, on the danger of misuse, illicit possession and trafficking of FAE?

Where there any activities specifically targeting young men?

Were any awareness-raising activities implemented or planned on dangers of celebratory shooting during the reporting period?

- **Yes:**
 - **Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force:** The Regional Awareness Raising Task Force (RAR Task Force) aims to raise the awareness and operational capacity of the key interlocutors in the Western Balkans and to contribute to the standardization of design, management, monitoring and evaluation of awareness campaigns as well as sharing best practises. The National Awareness Raising Task Force on SALW Misuse Risk has been established by Order of the Minister of Interior and is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Interior and State Police who are engaged in the area of media and public communication and SALW control.
 - The National Task Force representatives from the Ministry of Interior and State Police participated in the third meeting of the Regional Task Force organized by SEESAC on 4 and 5 April 2023 in order to exchange information on the recent and ongoing campaigns, as well as to increase awareness in the preparatory phase. During this meeting, the WB jurisdictions discussed about encountered challenges, achieved results and lessons learnt in this area. The Task Force explored the role played by the media in awareness-raising efforts.
 - Representatives of the State Police participated in the regional training for journalists on the ethical reporting of gender-based violence incidents involving the use of small arms and light weapons, organized by SEESAC on 28-30 March 2023. This training addressed the phenomenon of gender-based violence, the main aspects of violence committed with firearms and the ethics related to the written and visual reporting of such incidents. The training was followed by a half-a-day-long online session that instructed the participants on how to conduct an analysis of current media reporting in their respective jurisdiction following a specific methodology.
 - The OSCE presence in Albania, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Albania, the Ministry of Interior and the Albanian State Police, organized the launch of the Awareness Raising

and Communication Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027 on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The first awareness raising campaign under the umbrella of the Strategy was also launched during this activity. The strategy and the action plan aim to reduce the demand for and misuse of SALW in Albania by implementing coordinated, inter-institutional, and comprehensive awareness-raising activities. The strategy also emphasizes the importance of constructive engagement and dialogue with the public.

4.4 Awareness raising activities on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence

Guiding question:

Were any awareness raising activities conducted or planned on the misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

- **Yes.** State Police representatives addressing issues of domestic violence prevention have participated in the meetings organized by SEESAC in framework of the activity of the Regional Working Group for the Prevention of the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence through Risk Assessment.
- Representatives of the State Police have engaged in the Regional Working Group for the Development of a Tool for Gender Sensitive Firearms License Approval.

4.5 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding question:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- No answer was provided.

ROADMAP GOAL 5

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

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantially increase number of seized firearms, ammunition and explosives. 2. Ensure that legal measures are in place allowing legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms. 3. Systematically use deactivation to reduce illegal firearms possession. 4. Increase administrative capacities and targeted outreach to complete re-registration within envisaged legal timeframe, as well as to address adequately found and inherited firearms.
Baseline information on Goal 5 Overall Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms; 7. Deactivation of firearms; 8. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.

Baseline information on Goal 5 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

5.1 Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms

Guiding question:

Was any legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- Control is one of regular activities of the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and in cases when they find weapons in illegal possession, they file criminal charges against the owner pursuant to Article 348 of the Criminal Code, which prescribes sanctions for unlawful possession and carrying of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
- During the reporting period, **following legal procedures, a total of 6,226 pieces of firearms in legal possession were seized as well as 620 pieces of weapons, 17,890 pieces of ammunition of different calibres, 27 grenades, 2 hand rocket launchers, and 2.5 kg of explosives found in illegal possession of the citizens. In the same period, 673 criminal offences under Article 348 of the Criminal Code were committed and 656 criminal charges filed against 690 perpetrators.**
- The owner of a registered weapon may, at any moment, surrender weapons to the competent authority of the Ministry of the Interior according to his/her place of residence, and transfer the ownership to the Republic of Serbia, without compensation, on which occasion he/she will be issued a certificate of surrendering weapon. The certificate of surrendering weapon and transferring the ownership is issued on the form prescribed by the Rulebook on the Procedure for Issuance, Appearance and Contents of Weapon Forms and Documents prescribed by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.
- During the reporting period, **the owners surrendered 37,352 pieces of weapons and 302,716 pieces of ammunition of different calibres held in legal possession.** During the effective period of the Order on the Surrender of Unregistered Weapons and Ammunition (*The Official Gazette*, No. 37 of 5 May 2023 and No. 46 of 7 June 2023), citizens also **handed over 15,390 pieces of weapons and 75,525 pieces of ammunition** to the police directorates/stations for safekeeping after the death of the owner.

- During legalization campaigns, weapon owners (natural persons and legal entities) may surrender all types of weapons and ammunition to the nearest police directorate or police station without having to prove the origin of weapons and ammunition and will not be held responsible for the illicit possession and carrying of firearms. During legalization campaigns, natural persons and legal entities can register self-defence weapons (pistols and revolvers), hunting weapons (hunting rifles and carbines), sports weapons (small pistols and revolvers, small guns, air weapons and string weapons), convertible weapons (gas, starting and signal weapons) and old and deactivated weapons, for which they do not possess a document issued by the competent authority of the Ministry of the Interior, if they fulfil the conditions prescribed by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.
- Based on Article 46 of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (*The Official Gazette*, Nos. 20/15, 10/19, 20/20 and 14/22) and Article 15, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Law on State Administration (*The Official Gazette*, Nos. 79/05, 101/07, 95/10, 99/14, 30/18 - other laws, and 47/18), Minister of the Interior has issued the Order on the Surrender of Unregistered Weapons and Ammunition (*The Official Gazette*, No. 37/23 of 5 May 2023 and 46/23 of 7 June 2023) which prescribed the period for surrender from 8 May to 30 June 2023. Within the specified period, the owners of weapons of categories A, B and C were able to surrender weapons and ammunition to the competent authority without compensation and without having to prove the origin. Acting upon the Order, **citizens handed over 32,923 unregistered weapons, 3,864,898 pieces of ammunition kept without authorization and 26,485 explosive devices (9,124 grenades and 1,115.295 kg of gunpowder and explosives).**
- During the same period, **a total of 1,633 weapons were re-registered in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition: 1,104 natural persons re-registered 1,557 pieces of weapons whereas 11 legal entities re-registered 76 pieces of weapons**, all of which they have already had in possession in accordance with the previously applicable Law on Weapons and Ammunition.
- By Conclusion of the Government 05 No. 56-3807/2023 (*The Official Gazette*, No. 36/2023), the Ministry of the Interior was ordered to take all necessary measures within its jurisdiction to ensure **a two-year moratorium on the issuance of permits for holding and carrying firearms** (approvals for the acquisition of weapons, weapons certificates, and others).

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period?

- If the owner of a registered weapon wants to, he/she may at his/her own expense file a request for weapon deactivation to legal entities and entrepreneurs authorized for testing, stamping and marking of weapons, legal entities and entrepreneurs authorized to manufacture weapons or legal entities and entrepreneurs authorized to repair and convert weapons (authorized gunsmiths).
- During the reporting period, **423 pieces of registered weapons were deactivated.**

5.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- In order to fulfil Goal 5 - By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans – and bearing in mind the necessity of informing the public in order to raise the awareness of illegal possession of weapons (which is aimed at encouraging a bigger number of weapons to be surrendered during legalization efforts in the future), the mentioned activity could be realized in cooperation with international organizations and bilateral donors.

- Conducting public information campaigns to raise awareness about the illegal possession of weapons and the development of educational and informative materials that would emphasize the risk of illegal possession of weapons requires material resources, and these activities could be realized with the help of donations from international organizations. It should be emphasized that the above activities are an effective means (videos, posters, brochures, etc.) which would encourage citizens to surrender without consequences the weapons they hold without documents during the legalization actions.

PODGORICA

5.1 Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms

Guiding question:

Was any legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- Yes, in the reporting period, **657 firearms, 103 hand grenades and 20,752 pieces of ammunition** of various calibres were **voluntarily surrendered**.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period?

- Deactivation was used as a method for reducing firearms ownership. The fact is that a negligible number of citizens use this legal possibility. **Three firearms were deactivated in the reporting period.**

5.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes, the needs are elaborated under Goal 4.
- Yes, the support was requested and received.

PRISTINA

5.1 Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms

Guiding question:

Was any legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- **No legalization process or voluntary surrender campaign of firearms/SALW has been conducted** during this period.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period?

- The law on legalization enables the legalization of firearms for deactivation purposes. Deactivation was also provided in the law on weapons of 2010. In addition, the Instruction on Deactivation has been drafted.

5.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- In order to legalize a weapon, both the applicant and the respective institution must follow long procedures:
 - The weapon's registration system and the legalization procedures in the system are incomplete;
 - Insufficient knowledge of the technical staff of entities that perform the verification, marking, categorization and general identification of weapons.
- We have requested support and we have received somehow, but there is still need for further support especially as regards the training on better identification of weapons.

SARAJEVO

5.1 Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms

Guiding question:

Was any legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the amendments adopted by the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the Una-Sana Canton stipulated the possibility of handing over weapons for legalization, where such a possibility lasted until June 30, 2023, and during operational work police officers in the field informed the citizens that it was allowed by the Law on Weapons of the USC to hand over weapons for legalization. A total of 19 weapons were reported for legalization.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** The Law on Arms and Ammunition allows natural and legal persons to voluntarily surrender firearms and ammunition in illegal possession, without legal consequences, unless official actions have been initiated in connection with the surrendered weapons.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the PILLAR project under the auspices of the UNDP should begin in the month of September of the current year.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** Yes, operational action "Harvest"- permanent category. For the period from January 1st - June 30th, 2023 - 1018 pieces of various ammunition, 4 automatic rifles, 1 M 48 rifle, 1 explosive device, 1 hand grenade, 1 rifle mounted grenade mine, 5 rockets "Zolja" and 1 hand launcher were voluntarily handed over. For the same period of time, 3 firearms were legalized.
- **Brcko District Police, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** reported not having conducted any such activities during the reporting period.
- **Country level, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, and West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period?

- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported not using deactivation as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period.
- **Country level, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, and West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

5.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- No challenges or needs for support have been identified.

SKOPJE

5.1 Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms

Guiding question:

Was any legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- There are no legal grounds for legalization and voluntary surrender of illegally owned firearms. According to the Law on Weapons, citizens have the option to hand over legal weapons to the MoI because of old age, death or other reasons, followed by a procedure of issuing a notice for firearms possession.
- Voluntarily surrendered weapons until **November 15**: 679 pieces of weapons and 6947 pieces of ammunition.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period?

- In the reporting period there were no applications received for permanent deactivation of firearms. A total of around 60 applications for deactivation have been received since 2018. The firearms were deactivated, they need to be marked and a certificate for deactivation needs to be issued.
- We received from OSCE two vehicles for firearms deactivation inspectors to increase their mobility and enable the transport of specialized equipment. Furthermore, a study visit on firearms deactivation to Kragujevac Proofhouse, Serbia was organized in cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat for the MoIA - Sector on Weapons, Explosives, and Hazardous Materials

- A draft deactivation certificate following EU 2018/337 was developed and is in the approval process. We also received necessary specialized equipment including: printer and 6000 sheets of certificate paper with security features for deactivation certificates, PC for operating the deactivated firearms marking machine and printing deactivation certificates and one laptop and eight smartphones to enhance internal and external communication in the Sector of Weapons, Explosives, and Hazardous Materials.

5.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- The following needs have been identified:
 - Carry out a campaign for voluntary surrender and legalization of firearms, after the Law on Amending the Law on Weapons enters into force;
 - Carry out an awareness raising campaign on weapons deactivation;
 - Procure a marking machine (underway, with UNDP support);
 - Training on how to operate the machine for marking and training for the commission that checks deactivated weapons;
 - Drafting of a standard operating procedure for the procedure of registration of deactivated firearms with OSCE support.

TIRANA

5.1 Legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms

Guiding question:

Was any legalization and voluntary surrender campaign of firearms conducted or planned during the reporting period?

- **No legalization and/or voluntary surrender campaigns of firearms have been conducted or planned during the reporting period.** Although the strategy for the control of FAE 2019-2024 envisages the development of an amnesty for the voluntary surrender of small and light weapons, ammunition and explosives, there is still no such initiative. One of the OSCE project "Assisting the national authorities to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)" activities was to draft a feasibility study on the amnesty in Albania. The feasibility study is delivered to the NATCOM in July 2023, and it provides a situation analysis of all SALW amnesties to determine their effectiveness, challenges, and best practices. It gives a review of the existing literature and evaluates different experiences in planning and implementing amnesty and provides evidence-based recommendations on designing, implementing, and evaluating effective SALW amnesty. The analysis of weapons in illegal possession will identify the motives of the possessors and the effectiveness of conducting an amnesty based on the motives of the illegal possession or the willingness to deliver them. The study will help the decision-making/policy-making bodies to invest politically and financially on a legal initiative for the voluntary surrender of weapons in illegal possession.
- Albanian citizens currently possess 103,062 hunting legal weapons (C category), which as of 2019 are under the process of registration in the SIMA system – Firearms Information Management System, and so far, 80.19% have been registered.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

Was deactivation used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period?

- The process of firearms deactivation has not started yet. Currently, the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 384, dated 26 May 2022, “On approving the Regulation on establishing the standards and techniques for the deactivation of firearms and their essential components” has been adopted.
- Support has been requested to OSCE on establishing the Deactivation Centre, infrastructure upgrade and provision of equipment, development of acts governing the Centre's functioning and personnel training.
- OSCE is providing support in this regard through the implementation of the project “Assisting the National Authorities to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).” The Albanian State Police is preparing the infrastructure required to carry out the technical processes of firearms deactivation with the support of OSCE. The process of infrastructure upgrade and provision of SALW deactivation equipment is ongoing. Currently, the purchase of deactivation equipment is in process. The company contracted by OSCE has prepared the concept idea of the project for the reconstruction of the Deactivation Centre. The Manual on Deactivation has been finalized and a two-days training for performing deactivation processes has been conducted.
- In the meantime, has started the process for including the Training Manual in the Security Academy curricula and transposing in a e-learning module.

5.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **General Prosecution Office:**
A draft-law “On granting an amnesty” can be considered to be initiated. This amnesty will allow for the voluntary surrender of firearms of all types, illegally possessed by civilians at home, if the offenders under such typology have not committed any other criminal offences. Such a legal provision needs to be followed by awareness-raising campaigns for the voluntary surrender of SALW, which is a measure that we deem would serve to the collection of weapons, ammunitions and explosives/explosive devices held by certain categories of civilians at home illegally.

ROADMAP GOAL 6

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

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systematically destroy all surplus stockpile FAE in an environmentally benign manner. 2. Systematically and publicly destroy all seized FAE.
Baseline information on Goal 6 Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE, in accordance with safety and environmental standards; 2. Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Progress information on Goal 6 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

6.1 Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE

Guiding questions:

*Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE take place during the reporting period?
If yes, was the surplus destroyed in compliance with the safety and environmental standards?
Did any destruction of confiscated FAE take place during the reporting period? If so, was it a public destruction of firearms and ammunition?*

- During the reporting period, the **Ministry of the Interior did not destroy surplus stockpiles of firearms, ammunition and explosives**, which would have continued the trend of continuous destruction.
- The data on surplus stocks of arms and ammunition of the Serbian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence will not be presented in this report. The same applies to the destruction of arms and ammunition.

6.2 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Serbia needs further support from international or bilateral partners for Goal 6 bearing in mind high financial costs of the destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition and the willingness of Serbia to destroy the surpluses in its fight against weapon proliferation and misuse and organized crime.

PODGORICA

6.1 Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE

Guiding questions:

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE take place during the reporting period?

If yes, was the surplus destroyed in compliance with the safety and environmental standards?

Did any destruction of confiscated FAE take place during the reporting period? If so, was it a public destruction of firearms and ammunition?

- **No, there was no destruction of surplus** stockpile of firearms and ammunition during the reporting period. **798 confiscated firearms were destroyed** in the Institute of Ferrous Metallurgy AD in Nikšić on 7 June 2023, with SEESAC support.
- The Ministry of the Interior, in accordance with the Law on Protection and Rescue, implements protection from unexploded ordnance (UXO). In the first half of 2023, **6.5 tonnes of such unexploded ordnance were found. They will be destroyed in the second half of 2023.**

6.2 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes, further support in ensuring destruction of small arms and light weapons that have been legally seized, as well as those collected through the campaign “Respect life, return weapons”:
 - Procurement of a vehicle for the transport of UXO and equipment for destruction of UXO and explosives
- Yes:
 - through ITF Fund and US Government support, assistance for destruction of UXO was requested and it was approved for the second half of this year for the procurement of a vehicle for the transport of UXO and explosives designated for destruction and equipment.

PRISTINA

6.1 Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE

Guiding questions:

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE take place during the reporting period?

If yes, was the surplus destroyed in compliance with the safety and environmental standards?

Did any destruction of confiscated FAE take place during the reporting period? If yes, was it a public destruction of firearms and ammunition?

- No destruction has been conducted since we did not have any surplus.
- On July 9, 2023 (International Gun Destruction Day), the Kosovo Police had foreseen to organize the official firearms destruction ceremony. However, the destruction was postponed for September 20, 2023.

6.2 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- A registration system for disposed weapons should be established.
- We have requested and a commitment was made.

SARAJEVO

6.1 Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE

Guiding questions:

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE take place during the reporting period?

If yes, was the surplus destroyed in compliance with the safety and environmental standards?

Did any destruction of confiscated FAE take place during the reporting period? If yes, was it a public destruction of firearms and ammunition?

- **Country level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board; Ministry of Defence BiH):**
 - **MOD** - Weapons were not destroyed during this period.
 - As of June 30th, 60.57 tonnes of mines and explosive devices were disposed of by disassembling and destruction.
 - As of September 25th, 83.81 tonnes of mines and explosive devices were disposed of by disassembling and destruction.
- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** This Agency participated in activities related to the destruction of weapons and military equipment based on orders of courts in BiH, as follows:
 - bullets of several types and caliber - 142 pieces;
 - hand grenade - 3 pieces;

No destruction of confiscated FAE took place during the reporting period. The destruction was carried out by the Civil Protection of Republika Srpska, at the Vučja brda training ground, Kalinovik municipality, with the assistance of SIPA members, which was reflected in transport and handover.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** The Federal Police Administration regularly destroys confiscated weapons, i.e., in accordance with the indicated need and received orders from the competent courts and prosecutors' offices. The destruction is mainly carried out in coordination with representatives of SALW and UNDP.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior, and Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported not having destroyed any surplus stockpile of firearms and ammunition.
- **Border police BiH, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, and Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior** is planning destruction for the end of October 2023.

6.2 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- No challenges or needs for support have been reported.

SKOPJE

6.1 Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE

Guiding questions:

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE take place during the reporting period?

If yes, was the surplus destroyed in compliance with the safety and environmental standards?

Did any destruction of confiscated FAE take place during the reporting period? If so, was it a public destruction of firearms and ammunition?

- No destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE took place during the reporting period.
- The Ministry of Interior destroyed about 270 pieces of weapons confiscated during the last year. The destruction was conducted in accordance with safety and environmental standards.

6.2 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Needs identified:
 - Procurement of a kiln for destruction of ammunition up to 12.7 mm in caliber with closed burning;
 - Organize the site for destruction of UXOs (unexploded ordnance) – village of Mushanci, at the Krivolak army range.

TIRANA

6.1 Destruction of confiscated and surplus stockpile of FAE

Guiding questions:

Did any destruction of surplus stockpile of FAE take place during the reporting period?

If yes, was the surplus destroyed in compliance with the safety and environmental standards?

Did any destruction of confiscated FAE take place during the reporting period? If so, was it a public destruction of firearms and ammunition?

- The ULP-Mjekës explosives factory continues to industrially dispose DNN/TNT explosive substances (in blazing furnace) deriving from the industrial dismantling of ammunitions in the previous years. (about 30 tonnes). **During the period January - June 2023, no activities were conducted for the destruction of surplus FAE or those delivered by the Ministry of Interior.** During the first half of 2023, the Ad-hoc Categorization Commission categorized an amount of surplus armament and ammunition that were no longer needed by the Armed Forces. No development in terms of assessing areas considered polluted, as well as in cleaning or removing explosive waste. With regards to the clearance of hotspots: The number of dangerous “hotspots” containing unexploded ordnance has been currently reduced to 1, out of 19 identified at the beginning of 2011. The second phase for the clearance of the last identified area is under implementation. For the period 2022–2024, the Ministry of Defence has foreseen in the Action Plan of the National Strategy on SALW, the clearance of a surface area of 420,000 m². The progress

made up to date is 89,545 m² or 20.6%. The disposal (through incineration) of explosives and ammunitions gathered in hotspots has been carried out in shooting ranges, which have been approved in full compliance with the safety and security standards and rules determined in the “Service Manual for Disposing Ammunition and Explosives” ML-400-5-2.

- Albania has continued to improve the safety and security standards of firearms and ammunition storage facilities in all Armed Forces units, as per their intended purpose. In this context, the Ministry of Defence has extended the Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP in support of SALW control and physical security of FAE stockpiles, by December 2025.
- Pursuant to Law No. 152/21 “On weapons”, as amended, and pursuant to the Roadmap and “Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Explosives Control Strategy 2019-2024 and its Action Plan 2022-2024”, during January - June 2023, **no activities were conducted for the destruction of firearms seized and collected from the civil population.**

6.2 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **Ministry of Defence** – No challenges/needs for support have been identified for this reporting period.

ROADMAP GOAL 7

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

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the capacities of relevant state institutions (armed forces, law enforcement, forest guards, customs, and correctional services) to establish inspection systems and implement Life Cycle Management of SALW and ammunition (where relevant). 2. Ensure safe and secure SALW/firearms and ammunition storage facilities designated based on identified needs and in accordance with international standards. 3. Build the capacities of relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centres) to establish inspection systems. 4. Increase human resources and administrative capacities of state institutions for monitoring, oversight and evaluation of the firearms and ammunitions stocks of legal entities and individuals.
Baseline information on Goal 7 Overall Targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities; 2. Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities; 3. Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities; 4. Challenges, needs identified, and support required.

Progress information on Goal 7 Overall Targets

BELGRADE

7.1 Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities

Guiding question:

Were there inspection systems in place during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers)?

- After the tragic events of 3 and 4 May 2023, the Government ordered the Ministry of the Interior to inspect all shooting ranges (open and closed) in Serbia.
- In the reporting period, the work of 69 shooting ranges was inspected and 134 measures were imposed to eliminate the identified irregularities.
- In addition, the Ministry of the Interior carried out 49 inspections of legal entities and entrepreneurs registered as providing training in firearms handling, repairing and converting weapons and trading in weapons, essential components and ammunition. Inspection was also carried out of other legal entities and entrepreneurs, which, due to their respective activities, acquire and possess weapons, with special emphasis on safe keeping and storage of weapons and ammunition, as well as proper keeping of prescribed records.
- 413 inspections were carried out in the area of private security and 440 misdemeanours were identified. No inspections were carried out under the Law on Detective Activities.
- The Ministry conducted also continued inspections pursuant to the Law on the Transportation of Explosive Substances and the Law on Explosive Substances, Flammable Liquids and Gases. All legal entities authorized for the production of and/or trade in explosive substances were subjected to inspection. Monthly inspections of the explosive materials' production and storage facilities were carried out. 481 authorizations for the procurement of explosive materials were issued and inspection of their use was carried out.

7.2 Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities

Guiding question:

How many firearms/SALW or ammunition were reported lost or stolen from state or private entities during the reporting period, if any?

- In the reporting period, the **loss/theft of 195 weapons owned by legal entities and 1,798 weapons owned by natural persons** were reported.

7.3 Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities implemented during the reporting period?

- Based on the Law on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods, the Law on Production and Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment, the Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, 2,559 authorizations were issued in the first half of 2023 for transportation and transit of explosives for civil uses and pyrotechnics, hunting and sporting weapons and ammunition, and weapons and military equipment. During the reporting period, there were no improvements in administrative capacity in this line of work.
- Activities related to the reconstruction of the “Duvanište” warehouse complex near Smederevo were also carried out in the reporting period. The works started on 5 December 2022 and finished on 25 May 2023. The Ministry of Interior provided all necessary conditions for the project implementation.
- In parallel, there are also preparations for the improvement of security for four evidence rooms in police stations in Belgrade (Zemun, Novi Beograd, Stari Grad and Palilula), which would store firearms from criminal proceedings.
- SEESAC representatives, together with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior visited weapon storage facilities in the City of Belgrade Police Directorate (Police Stations Zvezdara, Voždovac, Rakovica, Mladenovac, Obrenovac, Surčin), the Police Directorates in Novi Sad and Pančevo, as well as the Police Station Aranđelovac in order to assess the general fulfilment of the conditions for the possible adaptation of the storage space for weapons.
- On 29 May 2023, a meeting was held with UNDP SEESAC to consider further support for the improvement of evidence storage rooms. On 20 June 2023, representatives of UNDP SEESAC visited the City of Belgrade Police Directorate to check the progress of preparatory work at the warehouse for confiscated items of the Criminal Police Directorate and stated that all requirements for the adaptation of the facility for the storage of weapons and ammunition had been fulfilled.

7.3 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions: *Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?*

- To fulfil Goal 7 – Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives – both the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Defence have identified the need for further physical and technical capacity building of warehouse complexes and locations.
- The Ministry of the Interior has adopted a standpoint that the safe storage of small arms and light weapons can be achieved by adapting a number of warehouse premises (micro locations – police stations), in which weapons and ammunition confiscated under relevant procedures are stored, as well as weapons and ammunition which became the property of Serbia (weapons pending collection), all in order to ensure adequate record keeping and security of weapons.

PODGORICA

7.1 Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities

Guiding question:

Were there inspection systems in place during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers)?

- **Yes, partially** - the control and oversight of legal entities and sole proprietors conducting the activities of hunting, sports shooting, provision of services, physical protection of persons and property, manufacturing, trade, repairing and converting, transporting of weapons and ammunition, are not carried out on a continuous basis. Only the conditions for manufacturing are prescribed, and deactivation of weapons is not completely regulated; minimum number of regulations and degree of control and oversight regarding the manufacturing and trade of explosives for civilian use.

7.2 Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities

Guiding question:

How many firearms/SALW or ammunition were reported lost or stolen from state or private entities during the reporting period, if any?

- **There were no weapons or ammunition reported as stolen or lost from state institutions or private entities.** The electronic database of the competent authorities system shows no events recorded where citizens reported missing firearms.

7.3 Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities implemented during the reporting period?

- Edition 3 of STANAG was adopted in March (the new NATO AASTP-1 standard was adopted in 2022) related to the storage of ammunition and explosives, so the conditions have been met to finish the Instructions under development for the past couple of years. In this context, the final OSCE workshop on preparation of documents for storage of armaments for the MoI and MoD was organized on 31 May 2023.
- The document includes:
 - Existing organizational structure for ammunition management in Montenegro;
 - Overview of national legislation in force;
 - Overview of international standards and recommendations;
 - Ordinance nomenclature and codification;
 - Classification of ordinance into hazard groups and compatible storage groups;
 - Classification of storage facilities.

7.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Yes, needs were identified, and support has been requested.
- Yes, support has been received from UNDP. Funds are needed for the adaptation of the remaining 4 buildings, which has been identified as a need.
- For the needs of the Ministry of Defence and the Army of Montenegro, there is a need for the reconstruction of weapons and ordinance storage facilities, including CCTV, hydrant network, perimeter fence, electrical installations and other necessary works in military storage sites in Brezovik and Pljevlja.

PRISTINA

7.1 Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities

Guiding question:

Were there inspection systems in place during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers)?

- A total of **43 inspections** were carried out during the reporting period.

7.2 Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities

Guiding question:

How many firearms/SALW or ammunition were reported lost or stolen from state or private entities during the reporting period, if any?

- Civilians have reported only **1 lost firearm (pistols)**.
- Employees of state entities have reported **2 stolen firearms** (property of the KP), while civilians have reported **17 stolen pistols and 11 stolen hunting rifles**.

7.3 Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities implemented during the reporting period?

- There has not been any activity at this point.

7.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Further trainings for inspectors and technical equipment for inspection.
- We are waiting for support.

SARAJEVO

7.1 Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities

Guiding question:

Were there inspection systems in place during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers)?

- **Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations:** Inspection of manufacturers of weapons and military equipment has been carried out regularly since 2005.
- **Ministry of Defence:** The Ministry of Defense of the BiH is responsible of quality control for the procurement of assets. This is realized through the relevant provisions of the procurement contracts and on the basis of the internal Quality Control Instructions for Class V. Internal controls are carried out at the level of subordinate units in accordance with orders and prescribed Standard Operating Procedures. Inspections of Arms Storage Sites and Mines and explosive devices Storage Sites (LSN and LSM) are carried out in accordance with the annual Inspection Plan approved by the Chief of Joint Staff of the AF BiH.
- **Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA):**
 - The officials of the ITA regularly supervise and control the movement of goods at border crossings and customs offices, giving special emphasis to goods subject to prohibitions and restrictions (goods subject to the regime of permits, among other things, small arms and light weapons).
 - The Regulatory Enforcement Sector conducts ad-hoc controls in terms of preventing smuggling. In this regard, there were no cases of seizure of firearms, ammunition and explosives in the observed period. The Sector for Enforcement of Regulations conducts ad-hoc controls. In one case, the control of a retail facility was carried out in the observed period, during which 171 pieces of firearm parts were seized.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior:** Considering that the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska is in charge of conducting training for security personnel, including fire training, the Ministry supervised the work of agencies for the protection of persons and property and private detective activity, and in the first six months of 2023 implemented a total of 25 supervisions (24 regular supervisions and one special supervision), and on that occasion, a total of 521 members of the aforementioned agencies were controlled. 35 controls were carried out in companies/enterprises that have their own security service. During the controls, there were no identified failures in operation.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** Within the competence of CMoI, the Federal Police Administration has competence only for companies engaged in the production, transport and trade of explosive substances for use in the economy.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the Commission for Supervision of the Application of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition of the USC has carried out an inspection of all entities owning or selling weapons.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior:** The Law on Procurement, Owning and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition stipulates that the competent police station conducts control over the trade, owning and carrying of weapons and ammunition, keeping and storage of weapons by legal and natural persons engaged in the trade of weapons and ammunition, shooting organizations, organizations that manage the hunting ground, state organizations and institutions, agencies for the protection of people and property, legal entities and craftsmen engaged in the repair and modification of weapons.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** In accordance with the Rulebook on the Internal Organization of the Ministry of the Interior of the Canton 10, the weapons inspector performs direct inspection supervision of legal and natural persons performing independent business activity over the implementation of regulations in the field of trade in weapons and ammunition.

- **Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** also reported having inspection systems in place during the reporting period but provided no details.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, and West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide answers.

7.2 Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities

Guiding question:

How many firearms/SALW or ammunition were reported lost or stolen from state or private entities during the reporting period, if any?

- **Ministry of Defence BiH:** Yes. In 2023, at one location of the Armed Forces of BiH, **2 pieces of weapons owned by the Armed Forces of BiH were reported stolen:** - Automatic weapon "Scorpion" M61 7.65 mm – 1 piece, - Pistol CZ M70 7.65 mm – 1 piece.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior** reported **13 weapons lost by civilians.**
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior** reported **8 firearms lost and 7 firearms stolen from civilians.**
- **Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** reported **1 firearm stolen from the state and 2 firearms stolen from civilians.**
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** reported, the **loss of 4 weapons** (2 pistols, 1 hunting carbine and 1 hunting rifle) **by civilians and 3 firearms** (2 M48 rifles and 1 pistol) **stolen from civilians.**
- **State Investigation and Protection Agency, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies BiH, Brcko District Police, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior,** reported no lost or stolen weapons or ammunition.
- Other entities did not provide information.

7.3 Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities implemented during the reporting period?

- **Ministry of Defence BiH:** Weapons storage in Butile was upgraded to the level of RC3 standard.
- **State Investigation and Protection Agency:** Activities on the development of a project for the reconstruction of evidence rooms in this Agency were carried out with UNDP support.
- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies BiH:** There have been no activities to improve the security measures of storage facilities since the Directorate uses leased premises and is therefore unable to adapt them to international standards for the security of weapons and ammunition.
- **Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, a weapons warehouse was built with OSCE support in the Bihac Police Station which is in use.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior:** Yes, the completion of works on the weapons and ammunition warehouse in Konjic Police Department is underway, and we applied for the reconstruction of the same type of warehouse in Mostar's Police Department.
- **Canton 10 Ministry of Interior:** Construction and craft works, high voltage electrical works and low voltage works on IDS were carried out with OSCE support at the storage facility for firearms and explosives of the police station Livno.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior** reported the implementation of activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities but provided no details.

- **Brcko District Police, Federal Ministry of the interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** reported that no such activities took place in the reporting period.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, and West-Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** did not provide information.

7.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **Indirect Taxation Authority:**
 - Through its participation in the work of the SALW Coordination Board, as well as through work on the development of a new Strategy and Action Plan for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH (2020-2024), the ITA has indicated the need for international assistance, both financial and technical.

SKOPJE

7.1 Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities

Guiding question:

Were there inspection systems in place during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers)?

- The Ministry of Interior routinely conducts inspections of legal entities involved in the trade of weapons, main parts for weapons, ammunition, and explosive substances. During the reporting period, employees from the Department of Weapons in the Ministry of Interior conducted a total of 15 inspections.
- In accordance with the Law on Private Security, the Ministry of Interior conducted 2,141 inspections, in a total of 1,217 facilities secured by 352 legal entities for private security, as well as 42 legal entities that provide security for their own needs. 30 violations were found, most of which are for not carrying security identification, in accordance with Article 46 paragraph 1 of the Law on Private Security.
- The Ministry of Economy does not exercise inspection supervision over the production and trade of arms and military equipment.

7.2 Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities

Guiding question:

How many firearms/SALW or ammunition were reported lost or stolen from state or private entities during the reporting period, if any?

- In the period January - June 2023, **eight weapons were reported as lost** by civilians, **one weapon was reported as lost** by a legal entity, and **one weapon and 17 pieces of ammunition** were reported as lost by state entities.

- In the period January - June 2023, **two weapons were reported as stolen** from a legal entity, and **18 weapons and 390 pieces of ammunition were reported as stolen** from civilians¹.

7.3 Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities implemented during the reporting period?

- The procedure for adapting three evidence rooms (Gazi Baba, Prilep and Tetovo) is ongoing with the support of SEESAC.
- Representatives of North Macedonia attended a workshop on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for weapons lost and stolen held on April 25 - 26, 2023, in Skopje - organized by SEESAC.

7.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- Needs identified:
 - Equipping the armory in the Ministry of the Interior;
 - The Forest Police Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management requires suitable racks, safes, rooms for safe keeping and storage of weapons.
- Support requested:
 - Support was requested from OSCE for the renovation and re-equipping of the armory within the Ministry of Interior, where the machine for marking deactivated weapons will be located;
 - Support has been requested from OSCE; cooperation is ongoing.

TIRANA

7.1 Inspection systems for all relevant legal entities

Guiding question:

Were there inspection systems in place during the reporting period for all relevant legal entities (producers, repair shops, retail, trade, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centers)?

- **State Police: Yes.** During the reporting period, the central and local structures of the State Police have conducted inspections on entities such as retail shops, traders, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centres, on natural persons equipped with authorizations for carrying firearms in their residencies or carrying hunting firearms.
- In the context of monitoring eligible activities with weapons, explosives, pyrotechnic articles and fireworks, as well as the Private Physical Security Service (PFSS), the LPDs have exercised 29 controls, based on which they have

¹ The data were entered after a notification from the regional units in the SIA, if there is a discrepancy with the data from the International Police Cooperation Department, the same should be reconciled as in the previous reports.

imposed 14 administrative sanctions, and have revoked 7 authorizations for possession of firearms and 164 authorizations for possession of hunting weapons.

- **State Export Control Authority:** During the reporting period, AKSHE or its experts have not carried out inspections (the inspections are carried out by Order of the Minister of Defence, once a year).

7.2 Firearms/SALW or ammunition reported lost or stolen from state or private entities

Guiding question:

How many firearms/SALW or ammunition were reported lost or stolen from state or private entities during the reporting period, if any?

- **No lost firearms** have been registered during the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, **2 firearms have been declared stolen by civilians**. Interpol has been notified accordingly through the tracing process in the iARMS system.

7.3 Activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities

Guiding question:

Were any activities aiming to increase the safety and security of SALW/firearms and ammunition and explosives storage facilities implemented during the reporting period?

- **State Police:**
 - On 28 March 2023, the Directorate of Logistics Support of the Albanian State Police organized a meeting with all stakeholders involved in SALW projects in Albania, to review the progress of ongoing projects, the encountered difficulties and the potential future challenges.
 - The implementation of the project “Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons)” has continued. The company contracted by UNDP is supporting reconstruction of 10 (ten) SALW storage facilities. Upon request of the General Directorate of the State Police, 3 (three) new storage facilities were targeted for reconstruction. The reconstruction of these additional facilities is supported by UNDP/SEESAC. A total of 13 SALW storage facilities will be reconstructed.
 - Equipment was also provided for the production of digital authorizations for firearms possession for civilians and legal entities. 3 pieces of equipment and 100,000 cards were purchased. In April 2023, training was provided to the staff that will be engaged in the production process of digital authorizations (cards) for firearm owners.
 - Currently, the project “Enhancement of SALW Control Security Measures in Albania,” funded by the US State Department, is ongoing implemented by SEESAC. The project provides support for the upgrade of 13 (thirteen) SALW storage facilities. The preliminary assessment of such facilities is in process.
- **Ministry of Defence:**
 - The request to be provided and supported with around 700 pieces of metallic racks for small arms and light weapons (SALW) for all Armed Forces units and divisions, to safely store and use them the metallic racks (safes), has been submitted and currently the Ministry of Defence is waiting for such project to be implemented in cooperation with donors through SEESAC. A process is ongoing to extend the implementation period of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Defence and UNDP, supporting activities on the control of small arms and light weapons and their surplus, as well as on physical security management in Albania. The implementation period of this MoU shall be extended to 31 December 2025, to complete the project.

7.4 Challenges, needs identified, and support required

Guiding questions:

Have any challenges or needs for support been identified, including technical and/or financial, for the activities under this goal? If so, has such support been requested or received?

- **The State Police:**
 - has identified the need for safety and security upgrade in 37 storage facilities/warehouses that manage SALW, in addition to those which are being assisted through the ongoing UNDP project.
- has requested technical and financial support from UNDP/SEESAC. Based on the request of the Ministry of Interior, support has been obtained on upgrading the infrastructure and achieving the safety and security standards in 13 storage facilities. The project is funded by the US Department of State and will be implemented by SEESAC during 2023-2024.
- **Ministry of Defence:** No other challenges/needs for support have been identified for this reporting period.



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