



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

Progress information on the Implementation of the Roadmap's Goals and Overall Targets:

1 July – 31 December 2024

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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
CIP	The Commission internationale permanente pour l'épreuve des armes à feu portatives
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.

Roadmap Overall Targets:	<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.
Progress information on Goal 1 Overall Targets	<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;

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 include:

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette, No. 20/15, 10/19, 20/20, and 14/22) and Law on Amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (adopted on 4 February 2022). Amendments to the Law adopted in 2022 introduced changes to Article 50, paragraph 1, extending the deadline for compliance. Specifically, natural persons holding a weapon registration card or a permit to carry self-defence weapons, as well as legal entities and sole proprietors with permits issued under the previous law, are required to submit a request for the issuance of a new document. A certificate of medical fitness to hold and carry weapons, in accordance with the updated legislation, must accompany this request. The extended deadline for submission was 5 March 2024. Relevant by-laws include:
 - Rulebook on Weapon Deactivation
 - Rulebook on Training in Handling Firearms, Repair and Conversion of Weapons and Trade in Weapons and Ammunition
 - Rulebook on Spatial and Technical Conditions for Safe Storage and Safekeeping of Weapons and Ammunition

- Rulebook on the Methods and Forms of Records Kept by the Competent Authority on Weapons provided for in the Law on Weapons and Ammunition
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Issuing Documents, the Layout and Content of Forms provided for in the Law on Weapons and Ammunition
- Rulebook on Records Kept by Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs
- Rulebook on the Weapon Loaning Procedure
- Rulebook on Determining the 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 on the manner of Authorized Officials Handling Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives Found at the Crime Scene, adopted on 20 May 2022. The *Protocol for Securing the Weapons Found at the Scene* was adopted concurrently and is incorporated into the Instruction.
- **Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition** (Official Gazette, No. 87/18). Relevant by-laws include:
 - Decision on the Establishment of the Agency for Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 17/20);
 - Rulebook on the Procedure for Conducting Checks During Examination, Marking, Individual Examination or Homologation of Weapons, Control of Ammunition Type, Examination of Deactivated Weapons and Weapons Whose Purpose Has Been Permanently Changed to Civilian, as well as the Appearance and Designation of Trademarks (Official Gazette, No. 113/20).
 - Amendments to the Rulebook were adopted (Official Gazette, Nos. 113/20 and 11/23). The amendments were made in accordance with the remarks of the delegation of the Permanent International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms (CIP), which visited Serbia from 9 to 12 May 2022 as part of the procedure for Serbia's admission to the CIP.
 - Rulebook on the Format of Records Maintained by the Agency for Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 54/21).
- **Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment** (Official Gazette, No. 107/14); The Law and the following by-laws are fully harmonized with the EU Acquis:
 - Decision on the Establishment of the Control List of Arms and Military Equipment (Official Gazette, No. 61/24);
 - Decision on the Establishment of the Control List of Dual-Use Goods (Official Gazette, No. 31/24);
- **Law on Export and Import of Dual-Use Goods** (Official Gazette, No. 95/13 and 77/19); The new Law on Export and Import of Dual-use Goods harmonized with the EU Regulation 821/21 was sent to the Parliament for adoption.
- **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);
 - Rulebook on the Procurement, Possession and Carrying of Weapons for the Personal Safety of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Armed Forces (SVL 28/2021), as amended (SVL 25/2023 and 42/2023). This regulation governs the procurement, conditions for carrying, handling and storage of personal weapons by members of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces.
 - The Law on Defence and the Law on the Serbian Armed Forces, both adopted in 2019, regulate the control of weapons under the competence of the Ministry of Defence. These laws set out the basic provisions governing the operation of the defence system and the Serbian Armed Forces. Further amendments are underway to ensure additional harmonisation with the EU acquis.
- By-laws related to the **Law on Private Security**:
 - Rulebook on the Detailed Conditions for Issuing Authorisations for the Implementation of Training for the Performance of Private Security and Police Services (Official Gazette, No. 15/19 of 8 March 2019).
 - Rulebook on Programmes and Methods of Conducting Training for Private Security (Official Gazette, No.

- 15/19 of 8 March 2019).
- Rulebook on the Content, Appearance and Method of Use of Identification of Private Security Officers (Official Gazette, Nos. 3/16 of 15 January 2016 and 30/19 of 25 April 2019).
- Rulebook on the Colour and Components of the Uniform of Security Officers (Official Gazette, No. 49/19 of 8 July 2019).
- Rulebook on the Method of Applying the Authority of Security Officers (Official Gazette, No. 59/19 of 23 August 2019).
- Rulebook on the Professional Examination for the Performance of Private Security and Police Services (Official Gazette, No. 74/19 of 18 October 2019).
- Rulebook on the Procedure of Performing Technical Protection Tasks and the Use of Technical Means (Official Gazette, No. 91/19 of 24 December 2019).
- By-laws adopted in accordance with the Amendments to the **Law on Detective Activities**:
 - Rulebook on Training, Qualification and Professional Examination for the Performance of Detective Work.
 - Rulebook on the Termination of Validity of the Rulebook on Records in the Field of Detective Activity.
 - Rulebook on the Content, Appearance and Method of Use of the Detective ID Card.
 - Rulebook on Spatial and Technical Conditions for Performing Detective Work.

Additional information

- Rulebook on the Method of Monitoring the Border and the Method of Issuing, Appearance and Content of Acts Drawn Up by Police Officers During the Performance of State Border Control Duties (Official Gazette, No. 48/18, 22 June 2018). Adopted in accordance with the Law on Border Control (RS Official Gazette, No. 24/18), this Rulebook regulates procedures related to the transfer of weapons in legal possession across the border.

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

- In March 2021, at the initiative of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), an inter-departmental Working Group was established to draft amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition. These amendments were based on an analysis conducted by EU experts, aiming to further harmonise legislation with the EU Acquis.
 - Following the tragic events of May 2023, Government Decisions 05 No. 56-3807/2023 (4 May 2023) and 05 No. 56-3866/2023 (5 May 2023) mandated additional measures for public administration authorities. As a result, intensive work began on amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition to tighten conditions for the acquisition and possession of firearms. However, the Draft Law did not enter parliamentary procedure before the dissolution of the Assembly.
 - During the reporting period and by decision of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior on 17 September 2024, a new Working Group was formally established for the preparation of the preliminary version of the Draft Law on Weapons and Ammunition. By the end of the reporting period, the preliminary version was finalised and harmonised, and will serve as the starting point for the Working Group's further work.
- To support harmonisation efforts, three representatives of the Ministry of Interior participated in the Regional Workshop on the Harmonisation of Legislation in the Field of SALW Control with the EU Acquis, held on 21–22 October 2024 in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop served as a platform for exchanging updates on the alignment of legal frameworks related to firearms, civilian use of explosives, and pyrotechnics with the EU Acquis.

- The work was completed on the draft **Law on Explosives**, which regulates the production of and trade in explosive substances for civilian use and pyrotechnic device. Its adoption is planned for the fourth quarter of 2025.
- On 20 December 2024, Serbia officially joined the International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms (CIP). The director of the “Agency for Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition” and two representatives of companies manufacturing weapons and ammunition lead the delegation. The use of all marks and stamps for the purposes of testing weapons, devices and ammunition was eventually approved.

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 (ATT) in October 2014, before its entry into force (Official Gazette, No. 14/14) and fully implements it. In line with international obligations under ATT, Serbia submits regular annual reports (by 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.
- 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 (Official Journal, No. 11 of 22 October 2005).
- Article 347 of the Criminal Code “Making and Obtaining Weapons and Tools Intended for Commission of an Offence” (Official Gazette, No. 85/05, 88/05 – corr., 107/05 – corr., 72/09, 111/09, 121/12, 104/13, 108/14, 94/2016 and 35/19) 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”.
- 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).
- According to the agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, the two following

criminal offences have been integrated into the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code and will be integrated into the Criminal Code as harmonized and partially harmonized with the UN Protocol:

- Article 40 of the Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition stipulates that “whoever tests, stamps and marks weapons, devices or ammunition without authorization shall be punished with a prison sentence of six months to five years and a fine. Weapons, their parts, devices, ammunition and means for committing the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be seized.”
- Article 41 of the same Law stipulates that “whoever produces 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.” This article is partially harmonized with Article 5 of the Firearms Protocol because this Law has not defined the act of removal operation as a criminal offence.
- In addition, the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code introduces the new criminal offence of *Illegal Carrying of Disabled Firearms and Cold Weapons in a Public Place*. Article 48, paragraph 1, item 4) of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition – which previously regulated this conduct – has been removed. This change reflects a stricter legislative approach and contributes to further harmonisation with EU Directive 2021/555 on the Control of the Acquisition and Possession of Weapons.

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?

- As part of the Working Group established by the Ministry of Justice by decision of 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Interior participated in the analysis of the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and in drafting the preliminary text of the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code. The Ministry expressed its commitment to further alignment with the UN Firearms Protocol, initiating proposed amendments to Article 348 of the Criminal Code — Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosive. The proposed changes include separating individual actions constituting the offence and explicitly defining export, import, transfer, and transportation as criminal acts. Other offences currently criminalised under the Law on Testing, Stamping and Marking of Weapons, Devices and Ammunition are proposed for inclusion into the Criminal Code to ensure full alignment with the Protocol.
- In May 2023, the Ministry of Justice received additional recommendations from the UNODC, within the framework of the project Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking in the Western Balkans, to support the harmonisation of the Criminal Code with the Firearms Protocol. These recommendations align with the findings of the Analysis of the Compliance of Serbia’s Criminal Justice Legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol, prepared as part of the same project. Taking into account all relevant recommendations, the Ministry of Justice prepared the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code. Among other revisions, the draft proposes changes to Article 348 (Unlawful Manufacture, Possession, Carrying, and Sale of Firearms and Explosives) by dividing it into three distinct criminal offences:
 - Illegal Possession and Carrying of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives (Article 348);
 - Illegal Production of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives (Article 348a); and
 - Illegal Circulation and Smuggling of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives (Article 348b).
- The Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code was the subject of the first round of public debate in October 2024. Its adoption is expected by the end of 2025.
- As part of the UNODC support in harmonizing criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol, Serbia participated in the second phase of the project “Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking”

(Justitia). In this context, UNODC organised a workshop on the harmonisation of judicial practice in firearms-related cases, held in Belgrade in October 2024, and a meeting on the harmonisation of criminal justice legislation for effective implementation of the UN Firearms Protocol, held in Skopje in November 2024.

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?

- Expert support to further harmonize the existing legislation with the EU Acquis, particularly in the area of explosives precursors, which is not regulated but it is planned for development in the upcoming period.

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); The Law is partially harmonized with Directive (EU) 2021/555, but not harmonized with Regulation 2018/337, Directive 2019/68, and Directive 2019/69.
- **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). Harmonized with the EU Acquis;
- **Law on Foreign Trade in Weapons and Military Equipment** (Official Gazette, No. 40/16). Harmonized with the EU Acquis.
- **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)
- **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) which regulates the conditions for the production, trade, procurement, storage and use of explosives. Not harmonized with the EU Acquis in the field of civil use of explosives.
- **Law on Flammable Liquids and Gases** (Official Gazette, No. 26/10, 31/10 and 40/11). Not harmonized with the EU acquis in the field of civil use of explosives.
- **Law on the Transport of Hazardous Substances** (Official Gazette, No. 33/14 and 13/18). Not harmonized with the EU acquis in the field of civil use of explosives.
- **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)
- **Criminal Procedure Code** (Official Gazette, No. 57/09, 49/10, 47/14, 02/15, 35/15, 58/15 and 28/18)

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

- In response to the evolving security situation in the region, it became imperative to reassess both proposed and existing legal frameworks governing administrative matters related to firearms. This reassessment included stricter requirements for issuing firearm certificates, streamlining procedures for weapon confiscation, enhancing monitoring and oversight of individuals and legal entities, and refining regulations on firearm storage and record-keeping.
- Following the organisational and personnel changes introduced with the establishment of the new government, a working group was formed in March 2024 to draft a new Law on Weapons. This draft law aims to align with the EU legal framework, specifically Directive 2021/555 of the European Parliament and the Council on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons. The working group is also tasked with reviewing and enhancing existing legal provisions to ensure effective control over the possession and circulation of firearms. The objective is to prevent firearm misuse and enhance public safety in light of the current security situation and recent social developments.
 - The new working group, comprised of a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from institutions addressing SALW, convened multiple times to finalize the text of the draft law. This draft law, developed as an amendment to the existing legislation, has received a positive assessment from the European Commission, confirming its alignment with EU directives.
 - Emphasis was generally placed on updating standards for arms dealers and shooting ranges, integrating gender considerations into firearm regulations, and addressing gaps in the trade of weapons and ammunition. The legal framework was further strengthened by reclassifying convertible weapons, such as alarm, gas, and signal weapons, under Category B, introducing new authorization requirements for their possession.
 - The draft law further specifies the definition and handling of major firearm components (e.g., barrel, receiver, bullet guide, cylinder, breech). It mandates that all major parts be deactivated to ensure they cannot be restored through modification or replacement.
 - The draft law also addresses firearm misuse in cases of domestic violence by stipulating that individuals with any history of domestic violence – including psychological, economic, or sexual abuse – are ineligible to acquire firearms. Enhanced procedures have been introduced for confiscating firearms from individuals who no longer meet legal conditions for possession. Additional provisions regulate:
 - Monitoring and control of individuals and entities legally possessing firearms.
 - Standards for providers of sport and recreational shooting services at civilian ranges.
 - The legalization of illegal firearms within 4 years of the law's enactment.
 - Particular emphasis was placed on enhancing regulations related to medical certification for firearm possession. The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, will develop a **Rulebook that will establish conditions** under which a health institution may issue such certificates.
 - A meeting was held with representatives of victims' families affected by the incident in Cetinje. They have been invited to participate as stakeholders in the working group drafting the proposed law.
 - During the reporting period, individual meetings were held with representatives of Ministry of Health, Police Directorate, sports shooting and hunting organisations, as well as joint Working Group meetings with the aim of finalising the Draft Law and making it available for public consultations. **The development of the Draft Law is in its final stages.**
 - On 3-4 September, members of the working group participated in a workshop focused on identifying and addressing gaps in the existing legal framework. The workshop also included revisions of the key provisions of the draft Law to ensure its alignment with the EU regulatory framework on firearms control. The workshop was supported by SEESAC, whose experts shared their feedback and recommendations.
 - Provisions related to manufacturing and marking are already provided for in the existing Law on Weapons, in Chapter VI.

- Additionally, the Ministry of Interior has established a working group to draft a **Law on Explosive Precursors**. This effort is led by the Directorate for Protection and Rescue and includes representatives from other government institutions, such as the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Police Directorate.
- A **draft Law on Explosives for Civilian Use** was also prepared. It has received positive feedback from competent authorities. The text of the law has been approved by the Secretariat for Legislative Affairs and submitted to the European Commission for a final opinion. The draft law is aligned with the best practices, both from the region and from other European countries.
- The Ministry of Economic Development, in collaboration with other state authorities, is preparing a **Draft Law on the Production of Arms and Military Equipment**, whose adoption is foreseen for Q4 2025.
- On 21-22 October 2024, representatives of Montenegro participated in the Regional Meeting on the Harmonisation of SALW Legislation with the EU Acquis in the area of SALW control in Brussels. The meeting presented an opportunity for Western Balkan jurisdictions, Moldova and Ukraine, as potential EU members, to jointly identify possible problems in transposing and implementing EU directives concerning laws governing the control of SALW, explosives, and pyrotechnic articles.
- On 19 November, the Regional Meeting on Harmonization of Criminal Legislation, organised by the UNODC, took place in Skopje. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice shared positive experiences concerning the adopted amendments to the Criminal Code (CC). Experiences were shared with colleagues from Serbia, where public consultations about the Draft Law on Amendments to the CC was concluded; the new CC provisions of North Macedonia, which criminalise the possession of blueprints for 3D printing of firearms and firearm components, were discussed.

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?

- The Arms Trade Treaty was ratified on 14 August 2014.
- The Firearms Protocol was ratified on 22 October 2005.
- **Montenegro has harmonized the legal provisions on firearms-related criminal offences with UN Firearms Protocol** and received formal approval from the European Commission. The amendments to the Criminal Code were adopted by Parliament in December 2023.
- Article 75 of the Law ensures full harmonization of the Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol. More specifically, the UNODC under its Global Firearms Programme (GFP), conducted a conformity analysis of Montenegrin legislation with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Firearms Protocol. Montenegro has ratified both the UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol, and participates in their Review Mechanism.
- To further harmonize the Criminal Code with the Protocol, three new criminal offences were introduced:
 - 403a: Illicit manufacturing of firearms and explosive substances;
 - 403b: Illicit trafficking in firearms and explosive substances;
 - 403c: Falsifying or removing markings on firearms and explosive substances;

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?

- Participation in meetings aimed at harmonising legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol, including the initiative to amend Article 403b of the Criminal Code on trafficking in firearms and explosive substances.
- On 19 September 2024, representatives from the MoI and the Customs Administration participated in a workshop in Rakitje, focused on the operationalization of the Programme of Action on SALW, the International Tracing Instrument, and the conclusions of the Fourth Review Conference.

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?

- Expert support in the development of the new Law on Weapons was requested in the first half of 2024. This support was provided by UNDP SEESAC in the second half of 2024 through a two-day workshop for members of the Working Group.
- There remains a discrepancy between the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code concerning the new criminal offences (Articles 403a, 403b, and 403c), which were introduced on 13 December 2023. These offences are currently not included in the list of criminal acts for which covert surveillance measures can be applied. Legislative harmonisation is necessary to ensure the lawful use of special investigative techniques, which are essential tools in combating organised crime. In the first half of 2024, expert support for legislative harmonisation was requested from UNODC. This support was provided in the second half of the year, during which a UNODC expert contributed to drafting proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, in accordance with the initial proposal.
- There is a minimal number of regulations and limited degree of control and oversight regarding the manufacturing and trade of explosives for civilian use.

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** regulating arms control:

- **Law on Weapons** (Official Gazette, No. 05/-022), **60% harmonized with the EU Acquis**. The law is currently under revision and amendment in accordance with Decision No. 527.
- **Law on Weapons, Ammunition, and Relevant Security Equipment for Security Institutions** (Official Gazette, No. 03/L-246), **incomparable**.
- **Law No. 05/L-017 on Amending and Supplementing the Law on Weapons, Ammunition and Relevant Security Equipment for Security Institutions** (Official Gazette, No. 03/L-246), **incomparable**.
- **Law on the Civil Use of Explosives** (Official Gazette, No. 04/L-022), **50% harmonized with the EU Acquis**.
- **Law on Legalization and Surrender of Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosive Devices** (Official Gazette, No. 05 / L-134), **incomparable**.
- **Law on the Trade of Strategic Goods** (Official Gazette, No. 04/L-198), **80% harmonized with the EU Acquis**.

In addition, 30 Administrative Instructions (Rulebooks) are in place:

- Rulebook on the Catalogue of Firearms (Official Gazette, No. 09/2016)

- Rulebook on the Type and Method of Theoretical and Practical Training, Professional Exam, and Verification of the Quality of Instructors Employed by Legal Entities to Provide Training (Official Gazette, No. 10/2016)
- Rulebook on the Review Commission and Appeals Commission (Official Gazette, No. 05/2016)
- Rulebook on the Minimum Conditions for Storing Weapons, Their Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 08/2016)
- Rulebook on the Use of C8 Category of Weapons and Ammunition for the Temporary Paralysis of Animals (Official Gazette, No. 04/2017)
- Rulebook on the Security and Technical Conditions to Be Fulfilled in Shooting Range Facilities for Civil Use (Official Gazette, No. 10/2010)
- Rulebook on the Permit for Carrying a Weapon (Official Gazette, No. 03/2016)
- Rulebook on Minimum Technical and Security Conditions for Facilities Used for Practical and Theoretical Training in Weapons Use (Official Gazette, No. 12/2010)
- Rulebook on the Collection of Weapons (Official Gazette, No. 13/2010)
- Rulebook on Cold Weapons (Category D4) (Official Gazette, No. 14/2010)
- Rulebook on the Procedures for Inheriting Firearms and Ammunition in the Event of the Firearm Owner's Death (Official Gazette, No. 24/2010)
- Rulebook on Tracing Firearms, Their Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 25/2010)
- Rulebook on the Marking of Firearms, Their Parts, and Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 26/2010)
- Rulebook on the Procedure for Transferring Firearms, Their Parts, and Ammunition Across the State Border (Official Gazette, No. 27/2010)
- Regulation on Carrying Firearms (Official Gazette, No. 04/2012)
- Rulebook on Shooting Ranges for Entities Possessing Equipment for Special Purposes (Official Gazette, No. 08/2017)
- Rulebook on Temporary Export Permits, Verification of Import by End Users, Security Measures for Authorized State Security Institutions in Nominating Responsible Personnel, and Criteria for Escort During the Transport of ESP (Official Gazette, No. 02/2016)
- Rulebook on the Authorized List of Equipment for Special Purposes for State Security Institutions (Official Gazette, No. 04/2016)
- Rulebook on Criteria and Procedures for Licenses and Permits (Official Gazette, No. 04/2013)
- Rulebook on Cooperation with National and International Organizations (Official Gazette, No. 06/2013)
- Rulebook on Education, Professional Qualification Criteria, and Programs for Professional Training (Official Gazette, No. 08/2013)
- Rulebook on Retail Selling Points for Pyrotechnic and Firework Supplies (Official Gazette, No. 14/2013)
- Rulebook on UN Hazard Classification and Compatibility Groups (Official Gazette, No. 07/2013)
- Rulebook on Professional Training for Inspectors, Their Appointment and the Inspector Manual (Official Gazette, No. 15/2014)
- Rulebook on the Storage of Ammonium and Other Fertilizers (Official Gazette, No. 13/2014)
- Rulebook for Special Security Measures for the Transport of Permitted Explosives and Fireworks (Official Gazette, No. 14/2014)
- Rulebook on Additional Safety Criteria for Explosives (Official Gazette, No. 12/2014)
- Rulebook on Investigating Accidents Involving Explosives and Pyrotechnic Products (Official Gazette, No. 14/2015)
- Rulebook on Procedures and Forms for Placing Explosives and Pyrotechnic Materials on the Market, CE Marking Requirements, and Package Marking (Official Gazette, No. 12/2015)
- Rulebook on the Legalization of Firearms (Official Gazette, No. 09/2018)

1.2 Activities initiated/undertaken during the reporting period in regard to the harmonization of the

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 legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- On 27 November 2024, Decision No. 17/233 was issued, approving the updated Strategic List for Military Goods, in alignment with the EU Common List.
- On 9 October 2024, the Draft Law on Explosive Devices was approved through Decision No. 03/223. The Assembly is expected to vote on the draft in the upcoming legislative session.
- On 28 August 2024, Rulebook (MPB) No. 06/2024 was approved, which sets out education requirements, professional qualification criteria, and professional training programs, through Decision No. 0485/2024.
- On 21-22 October 2024, three officials from the Ministry of Interior attended the Regional Workshop on the Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of SALW Control with the EU Acquis, organised by SEESAC in Brussels.

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 its provisions are included in the Law on Weapons.**
- Articles 364 to 369 of the Criminal Code define illicit manufacturing, trafficking, and the falsification or removal of markings on firearms as criminal offences:
 - Article 364: Import, Export, Supply, Transport, Production, Exchange, Mediation, or Unauthorized Sale of Firearms or Explosives.
 - Article 365: Illegal Removal, Alteration, or Modification of Markings on Firearms or Ammunition.
 - Article 366: Unauthorized Ownership, Control, or Possession of Firearms.
 - Article 367: Use of Firearms or Dangerous Tools.
 - Article 368: False Firearm Permits, Licenses, and Provision of False Information.
 - Article 369: Production and Provision of Firearms and Tools for the Commission of Criminal Offenses.

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?

- During the reporting period, the working group for supplementing and amending the Criminal Code organised a meeting to discuss introducing stricter penalties related to SALW, as well as for the perpetrators of domestic and gender-based crimes. According to a UNODC assessment (2020), both the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure fully comply with the UN Firearms Protocol.
- On 19 September 2024, representatives of Ministry of Interior and the Customs Administration participated in a workshop at RACVIAC in Rakitje, focusing on the operationalization of the Programme of Action on SALW, the International Tracing Instrument, and the conclusions of the Fourth Review Conference.

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?

- The impact of complex local procedures for drafting legislative documents, coupled with frequent amendments to firearms related directives, continues to be a challenge.
- Support has been received from UNDP/SEESAC for organising workshops.

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?

Federal level (Prosecutor's office of BiH; 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, including the following by-laws:
 - Instruction 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)
 - Instruction on the manner and conditions for the reissue of the permit (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 69/10)
 - Instruction 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). Harmonized with EU Acquis.
 - Instruction on the conditions for obtaining authorization for marking weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 49/18)
 - Rulebook on the Procedures and Methods for Marking Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 49/18)
- **Law on the Control of Foreign Trade in Arms, Military Equipment, and Special Purpose Goods** (Official Gazette of BiH, No: 53/16), harmonized with latest Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, including the following by-laws:
 - 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, No. 68/17)
 - Instruction 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

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 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. 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.

- To combat the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, the Federal Police Administration operates under the cantonal Laws on Procurement, Possession, and Carrying of Arms and Ammunition, as the corresponding law has yet to be adopted at the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina level. The applicable law depends on the jurisdiction of each canton.

Republika Srpska

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette, No. 26/16, 18/17, 31/18 and 58/19). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis, including the following by-laws:
 - Rulebook on the Content and Appearance of Request Forms and Weapons Documents (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 78/16)
 - Rulebook on the manner of determining the justification of the request for the procurement of weapons (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 78/16)
 - Rulebook on Training and Training Program for Handling Category B Firearms (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 109/16)
 - Rulebook on Spatial and Technical Requirements for the Keeping and Storage of Arms and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 85/16)
 - Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping records on weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska No. 94/16)
 - Instructions on determining the conditions for the establishment of a civil shooting range, (No. S/M-020-90/18 of 19 June 2018)
 - Rulebook on the procedure and conditions for issuing weapons’ licenses (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska. No. 41/20)
 - Rulebook on determining the medical fitness of persons for acquiring, owning and carrying weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 97/09)
- **Law on the Production of Weapons and Military Equipment in Republika Srpska** (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 1/24)

Brčko District BiH

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette of Brcko District, No. 39/11, 2/12, 6/13). Partially harmonized with EU Acquis. Relevant by-laws include:
 - Rulebook on the training program and method of training for the proper handling, owning, 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** (Official Gazette of USC 16/22). The law is partially harmonized with EU Acquis. Relevant by-laws include:
 - 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 (Official Gazette of USC, No. 22/22)
 - Rulebook on the appearance and content of forms of documents on weapons and applications for issuing documents on weapons and other documents (Official Gazette of USC, 22/22)
 - Rulebook on measures and actions taken by the police administration of the Ministry of Interior on the

implementation of amnesty for illegal possession of firearms, as well as in relation to the legalization of firearms (Official Gazette of USC, 22/22)

- Rulebook on the forms, content, and manner of keeping records of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22)
- Rulebook on the forms, content, and manner of keeping records on weapons and ammunition of legal and natural persons registered for performing activities (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22)
- Rulebook on firearms for the performance of business activities of legal entities (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22);
- Rulebook on the deactivation of firearms (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22)
- Rulebook on the location and storage of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22)
- Rulebook on spatial and technical conditions for the storage, accommodation, and use of weapons and ammunition at civilian shooting ranges; the number and type of weapons owned by civilian shooting ranges; the manner of using weapons at civilian shooting ranges; and the management of civilian shooting ranges (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22)
- 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 (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22);
- 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 (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22);
- 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 (Official Gazette of USC, 23/22);
- 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 (Official Gazette of USC, 24/22);
- 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 (Official Gazette of USC, 24/22);
- Rulebook on the conditions to be met by health institutions that will perform medical examinations that determine the ability to carry and own weapons (Official Gazette of USC, 25/22);

Posavina Canton

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** of the Posavina Canton. A number of by-laws have been adopted based on the Law, which is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.

Tuzla Canton

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette of the Tuzla Canton, 17/15, 5/16, 17/17, 8/20, 19/21 and 19/22). The Law is partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.

Zenica-Doboj Canton

- **Law on the Acquisition, Owning, and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition - Consolidated Text** (Official Gazette of ZDC No. 9/13, 1/14 and 13/18). No information provided on the status of harmonization with the EU Acquis.

Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde

- **Law on the Acquisition, Owning, and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition** of the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde. No information provided on the status of harmonization with the EU Acquis.

Central Bosnia Canton

- **Law on Weapons** (Official Gazette of the CBC, No. 12/14, 9/15, and 10/22). No information provided on the status of harmonization with the EU Acquis.

Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. The Law is partially harmonized with EU Acquis.

West Herzegovina Canton

- **Law on Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette of WHC No. 5/17, 16/18, and 9/19). No information provided on the status of harmonization with the EU Acquis. Relevant by-laws include:
 - Rulebook on the conditions for conducting training activities for citizens on the proper use of firearms, including the program and methods of implementation (Official Gazette of WHC No. 20/18)
 - Rulebook on the format, content, and issuance of documents related to weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of WHC No. 9/17)
 - Rulebook on the conditions and manner of holding and storing weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of WHC No. 9/17)
 - Rulebook on the Deactivation and Destruction of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of WHC No. 17/17)
 - 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 WHC No. 1/18)
 - Rulebook on the existence of spatial and technical conditions of business premises and professional knowledge of persons for performing repair and conversion activities (Official Gazette of 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 WHC No. 15/17)
 - Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping records of police bodies (Official Gazette of WHC No. 13/17)
 - Rulebook on the content and manner of keeping records of legal persons and craftsmen (Official Gazette of WHC No. 6/18)

Sarajevo Canton

- **Law on Acquisition, Possession and Carrying of Weapons and Ammunition** (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, corrections no.1/18, 13/18, and 30/19). The legal framework of the Sarajevo Canton is harmonized with the following EU acts: a) Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (OJ 256, 03.09.1991); b) Directive 2008/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (OJ 179, 08.07.2008); c) Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 of 15 December 2015 establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques to ensure that deactivated firearms remain irreversibly inoperable (OJ 333/62). Relevant by-laws include:
 - 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 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 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)
 - 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 Mol (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)
 - 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 Location and Storage of Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of the SC no. 29/18 and 03/20)
 - Rulebook on the conditions 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 Mol (Official Gazette of the SC No. 29/18 and 03/20)

Canton 10

- **Law on Arms and Ammunition** (Official Gazette of Canton 10, No. 6/13, 8/13, 7/18, and 6/21). The Law is partially harmonized with Council Directive 91/477/EEC, Directive 2008/51/EC, Directive (EU) 2017/853, and Directive (EU) 2021/555. Relevant by-laws include:
 - 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 Canton 10 No. 5/14)
 - Rulebook on the conditions for safe accommodation and storage of weapons and ammunition (Official Gazette of 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 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 Canton 10, No. 5/14)
 - Rulebook on the procedure and method of deactivation and destruction of weapons and ammunition

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

- **Republika Srpska:** In the upcoming period, harmonization is planned through amendments to the Law on Weapons and Ammunition or through a new text of the Law.
- **Posavina Canton:** The draft Law amending the Law on Weapons and Ammunition was approved in further harmonization with the EU Acquis. It is currently undergoing parliamentary procedure.
- **Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde's Ministry of Interior:** A working group was formed in the reporting period to draft a new Law.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton:** Commission for drafting the Law on Weapons and Ammunition was formed.
- **Canton 10:** The drafting of a new Law on Weapons and Ammunition is in progress, which will be harmonized with the Report of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Weapons Regulations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and with Directive (EU) 2021/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- **Ministry of Security / SALW Coordination Board, Ministry of Defence, State Investigation and Protection Agency, the Federal Ministry of Interior, Brčko District Police, Una-Sana Canton, Tuzla Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Central Bosnia Canton, West Herzegovina Canton, and Sarajevo Canton** provided no information.

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, BiH **signed** the Arms Trade Treaty on 25 September 2013, and **ratified** it on 25 September 2014.
- BiH **acceded** to Firearms Protocol on 1 April 2008.
- **BiH Ministry of Justice / Prosecutor's office:** Illegal manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, illegal trafficking of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and falsifying or illegally obliterating, removing or altering the marking(s) on firearms are regulated by the Law on Weapons at Cantonal Levels. The Criminal Code of BiH also addresses the illicit trafficking of firearms, particularly in the context of cross-border transfer.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior:** Illicit manufacturing of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition is defined as a criminal offence in the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH, Article 371 (Illicit Possession of Weapons or Explosive Substances).
- **Republika Srpska MoI:**
 - The Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 64/17 and 15/21) defines the criminal offense of "Illicit Production and Trafficking of Weapons or Explosive Substances" in Article 361.
 - The Law on Marking of Small Arms, Light Weapons, and Related Ammunition (Official Gazette, No. 83/16) establishes the criminal offense of "Improper Marking" in Article 21. Paragraph 3 of the same article also criminalizes the forgery, unlawful deletion, removal, or alteration of required markings on weapons or ammunition.

- **Brčko District Police:** Yes. The Criminal Code of the Brcko District 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?

- **BiH Ministry of Justice / Prosecutor’s office:** On 17 December 2024, a working group at the Ministry of Justice met to align criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol. . During the meeting, draft amendments to Article 193 of the Criminal Code of BiH, concerning illicit production and trade of weapons, military equipment, and dual-use goods, were finalized. The proposal, along with other amendments to the Criminal Code, will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice management for further review and adoption.
- **Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior:** The Law on Weapons and Ammunition introduces a change to the penalty for the criminal offense of “Unauthorized acquisition, possession, ownership, carrying, trade, repair, modification or alteration, and mediation in the sale of weapons, essential parts, and ammunition”. Instead of the previous prison sentence range of three months to two years, the revised proposal stipulates prison sentence ranging from three months to three years.

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 challenges or needs were identified during the reporting period.

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). The **Law is harmonized with EU Regulation 2018/337** and **EU Regulation 2015/2403** establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated

firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable. It is **partially harmonized with EU Directive 2021/555** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, and with EU Regulation No. 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012. The latter regulations implement Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol and establish requirements for export authorization, import, and transit for firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition. **Not harmonized with EU Directive 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 and EU Directive 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. Relevant by-laws include:

- Rulebook on the content and maintenance of electronic records of weapons and on the form, content, and maintenance of the register for monitoring the production, repair, sale, and transportation of weapons (Official Gazette of the RNM no. 31/2021)
Rulebook on the forms for requests and permits for the transport and transfer for import, export, and transit of weapons and ammunition, issued in electronic format (Official Gazette No. 94/2009, No. 156/2010, 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 forms for weapons and ammunition and on the method 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 conditions 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 method of performing 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, and the method and procedure for the issuance of a medical certificate (Official Gazette, no. 98/2005)
- 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 method of weapons and ammunition transfer across the state border (Official Gazette, no. 51/2007)
- Rulebook on the method of handover, receipt, and storage of weapons and ammunition in case of death of the weapon's owner, 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).
- Rulebook on the types of weapons that may be procured on the basis of license and certain types of weapons in categories A and D (Official Gazette, no. 51/2007 and 2/2011).
- **Law on the Development, Production and Trade in Military Goods** (Official Gazette No. 298/21). **Partially harmonized with the EU Acquis.** Relevant by-laws include:
 - 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 for the end-user certificate and the international import certificate (Official

- Gazette no.123/22).
- Rulebook on the form and content of the template for identity cards, as well as the issuance and revocation of identity cards for inspectors of the Directorate for Special Purpose Production (Official Gazette No.123/22)
 - Rulebook on the method of issuing permits for export-import, transit, and brokerage, as well as the form and content of requests and permits for export-import, transit, and brokerage of armament and military equipment 1 (Official Gazette of RM, No. 137/2014)
 - Rulebook on the content, form, and method of keeping the registry of issued permits for export-import, transit, and brokerage, as well as rejected applications for permits for armament and military equipment (Official Gazette of RM, No. 115/14)
 - Rulebook for the production and trade of 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). The Law is **partially harmonized with EU Acquis**.
Relevant by-laws include:
 - Decision on defining the list of dual-use goods and technologies (Official Gazette of North Macedonia, No. 81/24). This decision aligns with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2616 of 15 September 2023 amending Regulation (EU) No. 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of dual-use goods (CELEX No. 32023R2616).
Rulebook on the form and content of the "End-user Certificate" for import of 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. 111/2011)
 - 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. 111/2011)
 - 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);
 - **Law on Trade in Explosives** (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). **Not harmonized with the EU Acquis**.
 - List of explosive substances authorized for market distribution (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). **Not harmonized with the EU Acquis**.
 - Rulebook on the form and content of applications templates and approvals for the 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

- We are in the process of enacting a new Law on Protection Against Explosive Substances and Law on Trading in Explosive Substances 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.

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

- Following elections at the beginning of 2024 and subsequent change of government, the newly elected government withdrew the **draft Law on Weapons** from the government procedure. A new Law on Weapons, fully harmonized with relevant EU regulations, will be drafted. According to the Annual Legislative Program of the Government, its adoption is planned for October 2025.
- The new Law on the **Civil Use of Explosives** is in its final drafting stage and will be aligned with relevant EU regulations. According to the Government's annual program, its adoption is expected in June 2025.
- **Law on Export Control of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies** has been transferred from the Ministry of Economy to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade for review. No updated status has been reported regarding its progress.
- On 1-3 July 2024, relevant officials participated in the Joint Expert Group Meeting on Firearms Legislation in Brussels.
- On 21-22 October 2024, North Macedonia's representatives participated in the Workshop on Harmonization of SALW Control Legislation with the EU Acquis, held in Brussels.
- On 19 November 2024, North Macedonia's representatives attended the regional meeting to discuss harmonization of Criminal Codes with the UN Firearms Protocol.

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 March 7, 2014. The Firearms Protocol was **ratified** on September 14, 2007.

- Based on the UNODC report on the harmonization of the Criminal Code with the Firearms Protocol, amendments to the Criminal Code were adopted in September 2023. These amendments include provisions on the possession of electronic technical drawings for the production of weapons using 3D printers. The criminal offenses defined in the Criminal Code of North Macedonia are now harmonized with the Firearms Protocol. Specifically, the following criminal acts related to this matter are outlined in the Criminal Code:
 - **Article 395: Manufacture and Procurement of Weapons and Means Intended for Committing a Crime**
 - (1) A person who 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) A person who produces or makes available to another person 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;
 - **Article 396: Unauthorized Trade, Possession, or Mediation in Weapons or Explosive Materials**
 - (1) A person who, 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 North Macedonia or by a decision of an international organization of which North Macedonia is a member, will be punished with imprisonment from four to ten years.
 - (2) The penalty referred to in paragraph (1) of this article, shall also be imposed on a person who engages in 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 explosives.
 - (3) The penalty referred to in paragraph (1) of this article, shall also be imposed on a person who unlawfully possesses or carries firearms, ammunition or explosive substances or a large number of parts and components of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
 - (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, ceremonies, 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 shall be fined.
 - **Article 396-a: Counterfeiting Firearms;**
 - (1) A person who falsifies firearms markings by removing, destroying, or altering the marks on the firearms and their parts, or who does not stamp and mark the firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of one to ten years;

(2) If the crime referred to in this Article is committed by a legal entity, it shall be fined.

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 activities were reported.

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?*

- Continued support from SEESAC in drafting the laws and by-laws on weapons and explosives for civilian use.
- Development of software for tracking explosives following the adoption of the new Law on Explosives for Civil Use.
- Training for employees of the Department of Weapons, Explosives, and Dangerous Substances, security agencies, and the detective industry on the supervision and enforcement of the Law on Explosive Substances.
- Technical assistance for the categorization of previously registered weapons, commercial explosives, and pyrotechnics.
- Expert and technical support for determining the harmonization between the Law on Weapons and the Law on Examining and Stamping, i.e., Marking of Firearms and Ammunition;

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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**”, is **partially harmonized with the Council Directive 91/477/EEC**, as amended by Directive 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017. In the framework of aligning the firearms legislation with the EU Acquis, while discussing the amendments to the 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 Police and the State Export Control Authority respectively. Therefore, it was agreed 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 the Minister of Interior at a later stage. Relevant by-laws include:
 - Decision on the approval of the Action Plan 2022–2024 of the Small Arms, Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Explosives Control Strategy 2019–2024 (Official Gazette, No. 754, dated 09.12.2021).
 - Decision on the approval of the Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives Control Strategy 2019- 2024 and its Action Plan 2019-2021 (No. 50, dated 06.02.2019); During 2024, the General Directorate of the Police has continued to follow its work program “On the implementation of goals set in the Small Arms

and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Explosives Control Strategy 2019-2024 and Action Plan 2019-2022”.

- Decision on some amendments and addenda to the Decision No. 95, dated 04.02.2015, On the procedures of assessment of life-threatening risk and granting of special authorization for weapon possession (Official Gazette, No. 289, dated 19.05.2021).
- Decision on some amendments and addenda to the Decision 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 (Official Gazette, No. 269, dated 12.05.2021).
- Decision on some amendments and addenda to the Decision No. 96, dated 04.02.2015, On establishing the rules and procedures for the declaration, conservation, registration and deactivation of collectible arms (Official Gazette, No. 270, dated 12.05.2021).
- Decision on some amendments and addenda to the No. 275 dated 01.04.2015, On approval of the regulation on conditions and rules for the safety of weapons (Official Gazette, No. 271, dated 12.05.2021).
- Decision on some amendments and addenda to the Decision 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” (Official Gazette, No. 272, dated 12.05.2021).
- Decision on determining the rules for the development and administration of weapons register (Official Gazette, No. 292, dated 08.04.2015) (repealed).
- Decision on some amendments and addenda to the Decision 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 (Official Gazette, No. 462, dated 30.07.2021).
- Instruction of the Minister of Interior 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 (Official Gazette, No. 386, dated 23.11.2021).
- Joint Instruction of the Minister of Interior and Minister of Finance on the action, criteria and procedures for the financial fees of weapon eligible activities (Official Gazette, No. 264/1, dated 29/06/2015).
- Order of the General Director of the Police on the form and content of reliability certificate (Official Gazette, No. 417, dated 02/05/2018).
- Order of the General Director of the Police (GSDP) “On approving the certification procedures and format of the certificate of the Technical Supervisor on weapon eligible activities”.
- Instruction on some amendments and addenda to the Instruction of the Minister of Interior No. 262, dated 25/05/2015 on procedures for granting or revoking certificates of theoretical and practical skills for firearms, certificate format, and procedures for certification of Technical Supervisors for firearms eligible activities, and conditions for premises used for theoretical and practical firearms courses (Official Gazette, No. 334, dated 28/10/2021).
- Order of the General Director of Police (GDSP) “Standard operating procedures in cases of detection of weapons/ammunition/explosives that pose significant risks towards safety and security” (Official Gazette, No. 1214, dated 06/12/2021).
- Order on the composition, tasks and method of operation of the commission for granting entities with licence/authorisation on weapon eligible activities (Official Gazette, No. 367, dated 18/11/2021).
- Decision on determining the procedures for issuing licences for weapons manufacture, deactivation and repair (Official Gazette, No. 658, dated 29/07/2015).
- Joint Instruction of the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Health on the examinations and content of medical report, for firearms activities (Official Gazette, No. 88, dated 10/03/2015).
- Joint Instruction 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 (Official Gazette, No.

- 90, dated 10/03/2015).
- Instruction 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 (Official Gazette, No. 262, dated 25/05/2015).
 - Instruction 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 (Official Gazette, No. 277, dated 29/05/2015), as amended.
 - Decision “Regulation on the standards and techniques of firearms and their essential components deactivation” (No. 348, dated 26/05/2022). 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 on determining the rules for the establishment, access, functioning and administration of the online register of firearms, essential components and ammunitions (Official Gazette, No. 323, dated 18/05/2022).
 - Decision on group characteristics, types, and technical parameters of cold weapons, whose possession by citizens is subject to an authorization issued by the competent body (Official Gazette, No. 127, dated 02/03/2022).
 - Order of the General Director of the Police on organizing the work for the legislation approximation process in the framework of the European integration process (Official Gazette, No. 115, dated 25/01/2019), is being implemented.
 - Order of the Minister of Interior 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 (No. 666, dated 18/12/2018), 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.
 - **Law on the Use of Firearms** (Official Gazette, No. 72/2014).
 - Decision on approving the regulation related to the use of firearms, (Official Gazette, No. 839/2015).
 - **Law on the regulation of production, trade, research and development of firearms, ammunition and military equipment and technology** (Official Gazette, No. 87/2024).
 - **Law on the Availability on the Market and Supervision of Explosives for Civil Use** (Official Gazette, No. 74/2021). The Law is **partially harmonized with EU Acquis**. 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 harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market and supervision of explosives for civil uses (recast).
 - Decision “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” (Official Gazette, No. 48, dated 31/1/2024).
 - **Law on the Availability on the Market and Supervision of Pyrotechnic Articles** (Official Gazette, No. 73/2021). The Law is **partially harmonized** with EU Acquis specifically with Directive 2013/29/EU. It 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 harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles (recast).
 - Decision on determining the procedures, conditions, criteria, deadlines, validity and formats on

the issuance, revocation, and suspension of authorizations to transfer, store and dispose pyrotechnic articles (Official Gazette, No. 236, dated 17/04/2024).

- Decision on determining 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 licenses and authorizations for the production, import, export and transit of pyrotechnic articles (Official Gazette, No. 509, dated 30/08/2023).
- **Law on the Proclamation of the Hunting Moratorium** (Official Gazette, No. 61/2016; No. 60/2022).
- **Law on Control of International Transfers of Military Goods and Technologies and Goods of Dual Use** (Official Gazette, No. 46/2018, dated 23/07/2018). **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.
 - Decision on the approval of the list of military goods and of the list of dual-use items and technologies, subject to state control of international transfers (Official Gazette, No. 668, dated 10/11/2021). This decision is partly harmonized with Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 and is fully harmonized with the “Common Military List of the European Union”, adopted by the Council on 17 February 2020.
 - Order of the General Director of the Police on cases, modalities and structures for drafting the certificate of reliability (Official Gazette, No. 17, dated 10.01.2024).
 - Decision on the approval of the updated list of military goods and of the list of dual-use goods and technologies, subject to state control over imports-exports (Official Gazette, No. 91, dated 27/02/2019). This Decision is **partially 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. This Decision is **fully harmonized** with the “Common Military List of the European Union, adopted by the Council on 26 February 2018 (equipment covered by Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP).
 - Decision 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 (Official Gazette, No. 31, dated 22/01/2020).
 - Decision on approving in principle the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (Official Gazette, No. 604, dated 28/08/2003), harmonized with the previous European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.
 - Decision 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 (Official Gazette, No. 305, dated 25/03/2009).
 - Decision on defining the procedures for conducting expertise and control by the State Export Control Authority (Official Gazette, No. 304, dated 25/03/2009).
- **Law on the Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty** (Official Gazette, No. 6/2014);
- **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”**.
- **Law on prison officers** (Official Gazette, No. 8/2020).
 - Decision on approving the types of weapons, tools and their manner of use from the prison officers (Official Gazette, No. 471/2009).
 - Order on approving the tools and equipment used by the prison officers (Official Gazette, No. 6596/1, dated 24/08/2009).
 - Order on approving the norms to meet the needs of the prison officers for weaponry and

ammunitions (Official Gazette, No. 5230/1, dated 24/08/2009).

- **Law on Private Physical Security Service** (Official Gazette, No. 75/2014). The draft law “On some addenda and amendments to Law No. 75/2014 “On Private and Physical Security”, is in process of adoption at the Parliament.

Additional information

The following acts have been **approved** during the reporting period:

- Decision of the Council of Ministers 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 (No. 511, dated 01/08/2024), partly aligned with Regulation (EU) 2021/821 and fully aligned with the “Common Military List of the European Union”.
- Decision of the Council of Ministers on determining 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 (No. 509, dated 30/08/2023), pursuant to Law on making available on the market and supervision of pyrotechnic articles No. 73/2021, partly aligned with Directive 2013/29/EU.
- Instruction of the Minister of Interior on the procedures for issuing authorisations on weapon eligible activities, registration of the firearms, administration of the cartridges in a databank, and post-delivery procedures for the forensic police (Official Gazette, No.198, dated 18/11/2024)
- Joint Instruction of the MoI and the Ministry of Finance and Economy on the amount, criteria and procedures for the financial fees of weapon-eligible activities (Official Gazette, No. 221, dated 8/11/2024)
- Order of the Minister of Interior on establishing the commissions for weapon-eligible activities (Official Gazette, No. 203, dated 18/11/2024).
- Order of the Minister of Interior on establishing the commissions for granting authorization for the storage, transfer, and disposal of explosives (Official Gazette, No. 199, dated 18/11/2024).

The following acts have been **sent for adoption in the reporting period**:

- 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 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 MoI regarding the content of this legal act in order to have an effective implementation of the law 74/2021 “On civil use of explosives, pyrotechnic compositions and fireworks”.

The following acts were **sent for approval during the reporting period**:

- 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 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 legal framework on arms control with the EU Acquis?

- Work has not yet started on establishing the working group tasked with drafting the law “On Firearms Protocol”, which aims to fully transpose EU Regulation No. 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012. This regulation implements Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol.
- On 21-22 October 2024, three officials from the MoI participated in the Regional Workshop on the Harmonization of Legislation in the Field of SALW Control with the EU Acquis in Brussels, as part of ongoing efforts to align firearms legislation with 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 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. Albania ratified the Arms Trade Treaty pursuant to Law No. 6/2014 “On the Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty”.
- 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”.
- The illegal possession and manufacture of weapons, explosive weapons, and ammunition is defined under Article 278 of the Criminal Code. “Falsifying or illicitly obliterating, removing or altering the markings on firearms”, is provided for in the last paragraph of Article 278.
- Article 278 of the Criminal Code entitled “Illegal possession and manufacture of weapons, explosive weapons and ammunitions”, in its eight paragraphs stipulates as follows:
 - first paragraph: “The possession of weapons, explosive weapons or substances in vehicles or in any other motorized means, in public premises or premises accessible to the public, without the authorization of the competent state authorities, shall be punishable by imprisonment from seven to fifteen years”.
 - 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 removal, 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.
 - a paragraph has been added providing for aggravating circumstances such as: “When the criminal offence involves large quantities or is committed more than once, shall be punishable by seven to

fifteen years of imprisonment”.

- 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”.

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 Criminal Code, including provisions on firearms, is currently under review and undergoing inter-institutional consultation. The working group at the Ministry of Justice responsible for the Criminal Code amendments has been utilizing the findings from the gap analysis of the Criminal Code conducted by UNODC. This effort aims to harmonize the Criminal Code with the UN Firearms Protocol.
- Representatives from the Mol, the Police, the Prosecution Office, Courts, and the School of Magistrates have participated in several regional meetings organised by the UNODC to harmonize the Criminal Code with the UN Protocol. These meetings, aimed to promote the exchange of best practices and provide updates on the Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

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?

- Technical assistance needed for drafting a law on explosive precursors. This need has been highlighted during local and regional coordination meetings on the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans.
- The drafting of an Albanian-language translation of EU Regulation No. 258/2012 – implementing Article 10 of the United Nations Firearms Protocol – remains pending.

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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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.

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?

- Serbia has adopted since 2019, 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.
- Activities for the adoption of a new strategic document have begun, aiming at establishing a SALW Control programme covering the same period of the Roadmap implementation validity, and harmonised with its goals. Also, the plan is to adopt the first two-year plan for the implementation of the aforementioned programme, which is why the procedures for the establishment of the inter-sectoral working group for the preparation of drafts of the relevant documents have been initiated.
- At the request of the MoI, SEESAC provided support for the evaluation of the current SALW Control Strategy in line with the revised Roadmap, which expired at the end of 2024, and the development of a new strategic document in line with the revised Roadmap. The support was provided through a series of workshops organised in the first half of 2024, while the 4th workshop was held on 2-3 September 2024.
- In order to fulfil the obligations on SALW control as an area deriving from Chapter 24 “Justice, Freedom and Security” of the EU Acquis Negotiations, the Government established a mechanism to ensure efficient planning and monitoring of SALW control efforts at the strategic, tactical, and operational levels. This mechanism aims to achieve full harmonization with the UN Firearms Protocol, UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the EU Directive 2021/555 on Firearms. Under this mechanism, the Government established the Council for SALW Control with a mandate until the end of 2024. The Council is chaired by the MoI Secretary and comprised 17 members representing the MoI, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Finance. Its primary task is to ensure the fulfilment of all international commitments related to SALW control. The **SALW Control Coordinator**, appointed since 6 July 2023, also serves as a member of the Council and chairs the Special Working Group, which was established by the MoI to support the implementation of planned activities by the members of the Council.
- On 28 November 2024, the SALW Coordination Council organised the **10th Local Coordination Meeting** in Belgrade, to discuss the progress made and future plans for the implementation of the Roadmap.
- From 11 to 16 July 2024, representatives from the Kyrgyz Republic visited the MoI, where they met with representatives of the border police, criminal police, the Firearms Focal Point (FFP), and visited the weapons warehouse. The visit aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences in the field of SALW control.
- From 10 to 17 December 2024, a delegation from the Kingdom of Cambodia conducted a study visit to the Western Balkans, which included meetings with representatives of the MoI on 16-17 December. Discussions focused on lessons learned in the development and implementation of SALW control action plans, the functioning of the weapons registry system, and good practices in firearms licensing, including insights into the FFP. The delegation also visited the weapons storage facility and the ballistics laboratory.

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, such as the Prosecutor's Office, the MoI and courts, continuously collect firearms data. **Each authority has a standardized data collection procedure; however, data collection is not fully standardized and institutionalized among all these 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 within the criminal justice sector is not institutionalized.** Within the UNODC project "Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking", the third component relates to "Strengthening the capacity to systematically collect, analyze and monitor criminal justice data on firearms across the Criminal Justice Sector for control policies and practices". The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office is planned to be the main implementing partner for this component, which can contribute to the institutionalization of data collection within the criminal justice sector.
- **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.
- **In the Ministry of Interior, data collection on firearms is institutionalized.** The MoI 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 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). Note: To generate more complete and accurate statistical reports, instructions were issued to ensure more thorough entry of data on the means of commission of criminal offences and to enhance control of inputs into the "Criminal Acts and Perpetrators" electronic database. As a result, the increase in recorded data observed may be partially attributed to these improvements.
- **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 MoI.
- **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 MoD 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?

- From 16 to 17 October 2024, MoI representatives participated in a regional training on gender and SALW was held in Herceg Novi, aimed at strengthening institutional capacities for the gender-responsive development of SALW control policies and supporting gender equality authorities.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point (FFP) 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 is fully established and operationally functional, connected with eight firearm-relevant databases. It operates virtually rather than as a separate organisational unit.
- The FFP was established on 19 August 2021 as the “Team Responsible for Implementing, Monitoring, and Exchanging all Operational Information Related to Firearms”. In February 2024, the MoI adopted the Manual on the Standard Operating Procedures for the FFP. The Manual specifies the role of the FFP, assigning it specific tasks related to the collection, consolidation, analysis, monitoring, and exchange of operational and criminal intelligence information on firearms, as well as responding to domestic and international requests concerning firearms, weapon parts, ammunition, and explosives.
- In the second half of 2024, the FFP played a proactive role in the prosecution of organized criminal groups involved in arms smuggling. Plans are in place to further develop the FFP in line with EU good practice guidelines for the establishment of such structures, particularly through integration with Europol’s SIENA communication channel and the relevant databases of other institutions. In this regard, preparatory activities for establishing the SIENA connection were undertaken.

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?

- 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 second half of 2024, a total of 535 messages were exchanged in this area, of which 147 were sent and 388 received.**
- During this period, Europol contributed information on seized weapons, individuals found in illicit possession, and organized criminal groups involved in illicit arms trade and smuggling routes. Strategic information was also shared in the form of newsletters, early warnings, catalogues, and various 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?

- The MoI has access to iARMS. Police officers trace firearms through iARMS at the requests of foreign countries and the MoI’s organisational units of the MoI. Police officers exchange information with all the Western Balkans jurisdictions, and depending on the assessment and the channels used by the jurisdiction that we exchange information with at a given moment, the exchange goes through the protected systems of INTERPOL (I 24/7), Europol (SIENA) and through the SELEC Centre.
- **During the reporting period, 11 requests were received, of which 6 were answered and 5 remain in progress.** Regular input of data on lost and stolen weapons will be possible after connecting and harmonizing the database on lost and stolen weapons with the iARMS database, after which the data will be automatically uploaded to this database. The establishment of an interface for database integration is planned in cooperation with INTERPOL’s General Secretariat. During the reporting period, **46 messages were received and 26 messages were sent via INTERPOL’s secure I-24/7 communication channel on lost and stolen firearms.**
- The MoI has kept records of lost and stolen weapons since 28 May 2020. In 2008, Serbia’s MoI’s Criminal Information System (CIS) introduced the “Lost and Stolen Weapons” application as part of the legal weapons possession registry. Since then, all searches for lost and stolen weapons, as well as related suspensions, have been conducted through this system. In November 2022, the application was upgraded to include data on recovered weapons and was renamed the “Stolen, Lost, and Found Weapons” database. This database is integrated with the FFP. During the reporting period, the Information and Communication Technologies Sector enhanced the databases on seized, stolen, lost, and found weapons, along with related reporting functionalities. Additionally, amendments were made to enable the direct or indirect transfer of data into the Interpol 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?

- As part of EMPACT and its Operational Action Plan (OAP) on Firearms, the police participated in the following activities during the reporting period:
 - 21-26 October 2024: international operation OA 8.1 EMPACT Firearms – Joint Action Days in South-Eastern Europe (JAD SEE) 2024. The operation aimed to contribute to the fight against illicit arms and drug trafficking through the collection and implementation of intelligence data, international cooperation among participating entities, real-time exchange and operational verification of information on the ground, increased control at selected border crossings targeting drugs, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling, as well as the suppression of high-risk criminal groups and the detention of perpetrators of criminal acts.
 - At the international level, participants included the Western Balkans jurisdictions, Moldova, Ukraine, Turkey, the United Kingdom, EU member states, representatives from EU agencies, international, and regional organizations (EUBAM, Europol, Eurojust, the European Commission, Frontex, Interpol, the PSS-SEE Secretariat, SELEC, UNODC, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region), and relevant projects in the Balkan (EU 4FAST project and UNDP SEESAC).
 - The operation was carried out throughout the territory of Serbia, with participation from the MoI’s Criminal Police Directorate, Border Police Directorate, Administrative Affairs Directorate, and Regional Police Directorates, alongside representatives from the Ministry of Finance’s Customs Administration. The operation was managed by the FFP. Serbia was also represented at the Central Operational Command Centre headquarters in Sarajevo by members of the Criminal Police Directorate, including personnel from the Service for Combating Organised Crime and the Service for Combating High-Tech Crime.
 - 6,272 police officers participated in the operation. Authorities conducted searches and controls of

39,945 entities, 29,048 persons, 10,897 vehicles, and 422 apartments and other premises. In total, 212 persons were detained for various criminal offences, including 19 arrests related to weapons offences, 176 arrests associated with drugs, illicit border crossings, and migrant smuggling, 7 arrests for human smuggling, 2 for human trafficking, 6 for document forgery, and 1 for money laundering. Authorities seized 7 pistols, 2 starter pistols, 3 revolvers, 6 rifles, 4 antique pistols, 2 hand grenades, and 871 rounds of ammunition of various calibres. Narcotics seized included 43.44 kg of marijuana, 396 g of amphetamine, 1.8 kg of heroin, 350 g of cocaine, and 306 tablets of various types.

- In relation to irregular migration and border controls, 8 criminal charges were filed for illicit border crossings and human smuggling, with 9 persons arrested. Authorities found 185 irregular migrants within Serbia and prevented 112 others from entering.
- Investigations were initiated against 209 Serbian citizens, for offences including illicit production, possession, carrying, and trafficking of weapons and explosives, unauthorized production and distribution of narcotics, and smuggling of migrants. One criminal report was filed for human trafficking. At border crossings with enhanced controls, drugs were found in the possession of foreign nationals, resulting in criminal charges against individuals from Germany, the Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Turkey, Brazil, France, Greece, Ukraine, and Poland.
- Criminal analysis departments conducted checks on 228 entities, including 147 persons, 13 vehicles, 35 weapons, 8 telephones, 19 documents, and 6 explosive devices, providing relevant information for 4 entities. During the operation, the International Operational Police Cooperation Directorate exchanged a total of 228 messages, with 164 received and 64 sent.

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?

- All information related to seized or recovered weapons, ammunition, and explosives received through Interpol’s I-24/7 network, Europol’s SIENA platform, the SELEC Centre, or liaison officers is promptly forwarded to the competent authorities. Similarly, all inquiries from relevant bodies are transmitted without delay to Europol – specifically to the Analysis Project (AP) Weapons and Explosives – as well as to relevant EU Member states, third countries, and other operational partners of Europol, as well as through Interpol’s communication channels. Plans are underway to enable the automatic transfer of data from the KNO database to Interpol’s iARMS system.

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 was accredited in the second half of 2023, supported by UNDP to align with international standards. The cooperation continues through phase III of the UNDP project, which was approved in November 2023.
- In August 2024, Serbia’s Accreditation Authority conducted a supervisory visit to the ballistic laboratory, during which it was confirmed that all laboratory activities were performed in accordance with the requirements of the SRPS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard and the needs of laboratory service users. At the final meeting, verbal confirmation was given that the visit had been successfully completed.
- From 1 to 3 October 2024, advanced training was provided on the application of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard and on the preparation and accreditation of two methods: “Ballistic analysis and comparative identification of shell casings” at the ballistic laboratories of the Regional Criminal Forensics Centres, and “Ballistic analysis and expertise of fired projectiles” at all NCFC ballistic laboratories. Preparations also

began for two additional methods – measurement of bullet speed and measurement of trigger force – with a target completion by the end of 2025.

- During the reporting period, necessary documentation for the “Ballistic analysis and comparative expertise of fired bullets” method was prepared. The first phase of the validation experiment for this method is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2025, after which the results from the NCFC ballistics laboratory tests will be evaluated and a report drafted.
- As part of planned laboratory improvements, the comparative microscopes at the ballistic laboratories in Belgrade and Niš were upgraded. Additionally, three bilateral meetings of ballistic experts from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina took place. These included visits to the ballistic laboratories in Banja Luka and Sarajevo in March, and to Belgrade in October. During these exchanges, experts shared knowledge, experience, and addressed forensic ballistics issues within the framework of UNDP’s “Improving the capacity of the Mol in the field of small arms and light weapons control, phase 3” project. It was proposed that further cooperation between the laboratories be continued.
- The NCFC quality control representative and the NCFC Ballistics Analysis and Expertise Department visited the ballistic laboratories of the Regional Criminal Forensics Centres to evaluate spatial and technical conditions necessary for their accreditation preparation. Gaps and equipment needs were identified to align the laboratories with the standard. Infrastructure improvements, including room preparation and procurement of equipment and tools, are expected to be implemented throughout 2025 under the same project.

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 Evofinder and Traffic systems have been successfully implemented within police operations and remain in continuous use. In 2024, 900 bullets and 1,736 shell casings were entered into Evofinder, while 1,356 illicit weapons were registered in the Traffic system.
- In 2024, the Instruction on Standard Operating Procedures for *forensic experts involved in the examination of mine explosive devices* was drafted, with adoption expected imminently.
- Two police officers from the Belgrade City Police Directorate’s Operational Forensics Department participated in the regional workshop aimed to clarify criminal offences related to computers and electronic devices where digital evidence can be stored, such as tablets, mobile phones, memory cards, USB drives, photos, and videos. Guidelines covering the investigative process – from receiving information to developing preparatory seizure plans and the search, identification, and handling of electronic evidence – were presented.
- Between 1 July and 31 December 2024, the Agency applied 1,852 stamps using the marking machine procured through SEESAC, marking a significant increase compared to previous reporting periods. During this period, 538 disabled weapons were also stamped.
- In the second half of 2024, the Criminal Forensics Centre (NCFC) received several donations. These included the "Faro Scene" software package (licenses and associated training), as well as upgrades to comparative and scanning electron microscopes (SEM). Additionally, the NCFC received a donation of cyanoacrylate fuming chambers for developing latent papillary ridge prints, along with the Discover Pro system for trace documentation. Training on the use of Faro Scene software was conducted in the second half of July at the Avala Teaching Centre, with participation from 10 NCFC staff members.
- During the reporting period, the following workshops/seminars/trainings were held in order to improve investigation capacities:
 - On 19 September 2024, an online meeting was held with the OA 8.1 coordinator to analyze contributions to the intelligence phase, organize and prepare for the operational phase, and establish the Central

Operational Command Centre in Sarajevo for JAD SEE 2024, aiming to improve the outcomes achieved during the previous year’s operational phase.

- On 7-10 October 2024, the FFP members participated in the workshop “Analytical Training for Firearms Focal Points”, organised by SEESAC.
- On 26-27 November 2024, a seminar on weapon identification and the harmonisation of SALW legislation on weapons with the EU acquis, as foreseen under phase III of the UNDP programme Improving Capacities of the MoI in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, was held in Sokobanja.
- On 28-29 November 2024, a similar seminar on weapon identification and the harmonisation of SALW legislation on weapons with EU legislation, also under phase III of the same UNDP programme, was held in Kopaonik.
- On 3-5 December 2024, three FFP representatives participated in the Annual Regional FFP Meeting and the Horizon Scanning and High-Value Targets Training, held in Montenegro.

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?

- Standardization and institutionalization of data maintained by competent authorities has been identified as the biggest challenge in achieving Goal 2.
- Establishing and standardizing coordination between institutions to make data available to all relevant beneficiaries is necessary. This would 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 SALW/firearms, which would enable an easier and more accurate assessment of the situation in this area.
- Establishing an effective information exchange between all law enforcement authorities, including the MoI, prosecutor’s offices, courts and the Customs Administration in the context of seizure of SALW, filed charges and outcomes of court proceedings is necessary. This should also include the ministries responsible for trade, tourism, and telecommunication, as institutions responsible for issuing licenses for export and import of arms and military equipment.
- Supporting the Agency for Testing, Stamping and Marking Weapons, Ammunition and Devices in establishing automated records, i.e. donation of a programme serving that purpose.

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?

- The SALW Commission develops policies in this area, collects data, monitors the implementation of measures and coordinates efforts. Data collection in the area of criminal justice has been improved, ensuring comprehensive tracking of all weapons, ammunition, and explosives that are found or confiscated. The police regularly enter data on lost and stolen weapons into the Interpol system and the Trace system.
- Through the secured internal information and communication system INFOSTREEM, used by the MoI/Police

Directorate, the FFP has developed an application for recording all firearms-related incidents. An internal Mol instruction outlines the duties and reporting procedures through this application, enabling transparency in firearms use and immediate access to information regarding the status and nature of incidents.

- On 7 July 2024, the 11th Local Roadmap Coordination Meeting was held in Podgorica, where Mol's representatives presented progress on the implementation of the Roadmap.
- On 9-10 July 2024, Montenegrin representatives participated in the 11th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting.
- Montenegro submitted to SEESAC its 12th Roadmap Progress Report, which is integrated into the 12th Regional Roadmap Progress Report.
- On 11 July 2024, the Regional SALW Commissions Meeting was held in Podgorica, Montenegro, bringing together representatives of SALW Commissions from South-East and Eastern Europe. Montenegro was represented by the Chair of the SALW Commission and officials from the Ministry of Interior, MoD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism.
- During a study visit to the Western Balkans from 11 to 16 July 2024, representatives of the Inter-agency Working Group on SALW Control from the Kyrgyz Republic met with members of the SALW Commission of Montenegro and the Police Directorate. They also held meetings with representatives of the Border and Criminal Police, the FFP, and visited the ballistic laboratory.
- On 10–11 December 2024, Montenegrin law enforcement representatives participated in the 12th Roadmap Coordination Meeting, held in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- On 12th December 2024, four officials from Montenegro's Mol, Ministry of Economic Development, and MoD participated in the 20th Regional SALW Commissions Meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- The SALW Control Strategy and its Action Plan for 2019-2025 have been adopted. The Strategy incorporates data disaggregated 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?*

- The practice of collecting data on the proliferation and impact of SALW/firearms has been significantly improved through the development of the INFOSTREEM system. The system ensures transparency in the use of firearms, provides immediate access to data on their status and the nature of incidents, and includes gender-disaggregated data. The data is analyzed by the FFP and is accessible to citizens, as well as other organisational units and institutions upon request.
- Since November 2023, the FFP has been publishing a monthly firearms bulletin, which is distributed as part of the monthly report from the Department for Combating Organized Crime. In addition, the bulletin is distributed to other stakeholders within the Police Directorate and to relevant parties via the Infostream application as needed.
- Criminal justice data collection is not institutionalized.

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?*

- No specific activities were reported during the reporting period.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point (FFP) 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 FFP was established in Q1 of 2020 and consists of officers from several organisational units of the Police Administration who perform tasks and duties related to the FFP from the aspect of their competencies.
- Tasks related to the FFP cover the collection, analysis, distribution and exchange of data on firearms, and include:
 - Data analysis and preparation of intelligence and strategic reports;
 - Preparation of statistical reports;
 - Review of seized firearms;
 - 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.
- A dedicated email address for the FFP has been established (ffp@policija.me), which will improve communication and facilitate the sharing of analytical data. In the second half of 2024, this email address was promoted to enhance its visibility and establish it as the official single point of contact for the FFP.
- In Q1 2024, the FFP was granted access to the SIENA channel.
- SEESAC has continued to support the operationalization of the FFP, as key analytical units for support to investigations of firearms-related criminality, through advisory support, assessments and capacity building.
- FFP officials participated in the annual FFP meeting organised by SEESAC in Luštica, Montenegro on 3-5 December 2024.

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, SIENA was used to exchange information with EUROPOL.
- Throughout 2024, the FFP submitted a total of 61 requests for checks to partner agencies and Europol's Firearms and Explosives Unit via the SIENA channel. Information on over 80 firearms reported as stolen or lost was also shared through the same platform.

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. Input is submitted on a regular basis.

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

- In the first half of 2024, the intelligence phase of the EMPACT Joint Action Days (JAD) for Southeast Europe began. Montenegro appointed an Activity Coordinator within the MoI – Police Directorate to implement activities in line with the EMPACT SEE JAD 2024 SOPs. Montenegro co-leads EMPACT Firearms OA10 – Operational Action Plan 8.1 and is actively involved in the preparation and implementation of these SOPs.
- The operational phase of SEE JAD 2024 took place from 21 to 26 October 2024. A Central Operations Communication Centre was established in Sarajevo, where Montenegro deployed one officer. The following results were achieved:
- Each day, 246 police officers and 4 K9 units were deployed, along with the use of 7 scanners (technical devices).
- Throughout the operation, Montenegrin police officers checked 4,086 persons, 3,091 vehicles, and 170 facilities.
- The Border Police conducted the following checks at the borders:
 - Upon entry: 149,818 persons, 41,358 vehicles, 13 vessels;
 - Upon exit: 134,315 persons, 39,487 vehicles, 18 vessels.
- As a result of these checks among other:
 - 26 persons were detained, including 23 for criminal offences and 3 based on Interpol international notices;
 - 22 wanted persons were located, including 3 on Interpol notices and 19 on local notices;
- Customs Administration officers conducted additional checks on 399 postal items. Items recovered and temporarily confiscated during the operation included:
 - 23 firearms (11 illegally and 12 legally possessed);
 - 962 rounds of ammunition;
 - 9 kilograms of explosives;
- Additionally, during the operational phase in Sarajevo, a Cyber-Patrolling Laboratory was established within the Central Operations Communication Centre with the support of SEESAC. Montenegro deployed one officer from the Police Directorate and one prosecutor to support these efforts.

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, found and seized firearms are traced. Following the FFP's access to the SIENA communication channel, data from the internal database on seized, found, stolen, and lost firearms from previous years were submitted to EUROPOL. For 2024, the FFP submitted updated data regularly, and this process continued throughout the second, third, and the fourth quarter of the year.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

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

- Yes. The ballistics laboratory in Montenegro received ISO 17025 accreditation in early 2024 with technical support from ballistics specialists at the Forensic Centre in Skopje and assistance from the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. The donated EVOFINDER ballistics database system is now in regular use at the laboratory.
- The OSCE Mission supported the Forensic Centre by organizing both basic and advanced training in comparative microscopy for two newly recruited ballistic specialists. The trainings took place at the Forensic

Centre's ballistics laboratory, which was certified with the Mission's support in the second half of 2024. During the trainings, ballistic specialists were introduced to best practices in line with certified international standards, contributing to the enhancement of forensic capacities in the field of firearms examination.

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?

- On 18–20 September 2024, two officials (a ballistic expert and a GSR expert) from the Forensic Centre attended the 30th ENFSI Conference on Firearms and Gunshot Residue (GSR) in Vienna, Austria. They were introduced to cutting-edge techniques, equipment, proficiency tests, and shared practical experiences in forensic science.
- The Forensic Centre received a part of equipment for gunshot residue (GSR) analysis and the CSI Unit received field work equipment, as part of the UNDP project titled "Improving the Capacities of the Criminal Police of Montenegro (including the Forensic Centre) in the Area of Fighting Trafficking in FAE and Other FAE-Related Criminal Offences".
- In October 2024, two CSI members participated in the ENFSI Scene of Crime Working Group in Budapest, Hungary. The event provided opportunities for hands-on demonstrations, knowledge exchange, and exposure to innovative crime scene technologies.
- On 28–30 October 2024, five forensic professionals participated in a study visit to the Forensic Science Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia, where they visited laboratories specializing in digital forensics, fingerprinting, traceology, graphology, fire and explosion investigation, DNA analysis, and chemical testing. Advanced tools they explored included: Leica RTC 360 3D scanner (crime scene reconstruction), RAMAN instrument (chemical analysis), and TESCAN scanning electron microscope (GSR analysis). The visit also included insights into explosive devices and improvised explosives, and facilitated plans for future collaboration in ballistics, explosives, and GSR domains.
- On 28 October – 1 November 2024, officers from the Police Directorate participated in a basic training on firearms-related intelligence work. Key topics included data collection, intelligence analysis, support to firearms-related and cross-border investigations, and emerging threats—such as firearms trafficking, tracing, and the increasing risk posed by 3D-printed firearms. The training was attended by 12 representatives from various law enforcement agencies.
- On 19-20 November 2024, Montenegro participated in the 21st SEEFEN Meeting in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which brought together inspectors, customs officers, prosecutors, border police, and ballistic specialists from the Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine. Five Montenegrin officials represented the Prosecutor's Office, Customs Administration, Police Directorate, Border Police, and Forensic Centre.

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. Despite the aforementioned activities, significant investments remain necessary to raise the operational level of the CSI Unit to meet the standards required for potential accreditation. The current priorities focus on adapting CSI premises to fulfil technical and procedural standards for packaging, sampling, processing, and storing evidence. There is also a need to procure dedicated vehicles suited for CSI technicians' field work, along with additional basic and advanced equipment and specialised training.
- During the reconstruction of the test firing wall in the ballistic laboratory, further needs were identified. In

particular, the renovation of the floor and walls of the test firing room became a priority, as the carpeting has accumulated a large quantity of gunshot residue particles, posing a fire hazard. Enhancing the protective measures for staff during test firing is also considered essential.

- A multidisciplinary approach is necessary to improve the investigation and prosecution of firearms- and explosives-related crimes. This includes upgrading the technical capacities of the DNA and fingerprint examination laboratories. Such improvements would not only strengthen internal forensic capabilities but also support Montenegro's contribution to and benefit from the international exchange of data related to these crimes.
- In the second half of 2024, SEESAC, through its ongoing project for the Criminal Police, supported the procurement of equipment for the Forensic Centre, the CSI Unit, and the Criminal Police. Despite this support, additional support remains necessary, particularly for the full equipment and standardisation of CSI operations in line with the ISO 17020 standard.

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?

- On 9-10 July 2024, members of the SALW Commission and relevant officials participated in the 11th Regional Roadmap coordination meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro.
- On 11 July 2024, SALW Commission representatives and relevant officials participated in the 19th Regional meeting of SALW Commissions in Podgorica.
- On 10-11 December 2024, SALW Commission representatives and relevant officials participated in the 12th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- On 12 December 2024, SALW Commission members and relevant officials participated in the 20th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions in Skopje.
- Relevant officials attended the first meeting of the joint group of experts on firearms legislation, held in Brussels.
- SALW Commission representatives participated in eight local meetings on SALW control, addressing several key issues, including gender aspects, awareness raising, data collection, and inter-institutional cooperation.
- On 28-29 October 2024, high representatives of Ministry of Interior participated in the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial on Justice and Home Affairs, endorsing the Phase II of the Western Balkans Roadmap on SALW.
- The 2024–2028 SALW Control Strategy is in place, fully harmonized with the Regional Roadmap on SALW Control. It includes a gender perspective, with a particular focus on participation and engagement of women in SALW control, as well as addressing violence against women and gender-based violence. The Strategy also emphasizes age-related issues, notably youth violence and violence in schools.

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?

- Progress has been made in data collection. Collecting data disaggregated by gender and age is currently challenging, however initiatives are underway to improve and interconnect data systems.
- A meeting was held by the Police with the group responsible for gender-sensitive questionnaires and surveys, as requested by SEESAC.

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?

- During SALW commission meetings and the implementation of the campaign “Celebrate with Heart, Not with a Gun,” discussions highlighted the importance of women’s participation in SALW control activities. The overall women’s participation in SALW Control though remains low.
- On 16-17 October 2024, three officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the regional training of trainers focusing on guidelines for approving firearms licenses within a gender-sensitive context, held in Budva.
- The MoIA contributed data to two regional analyses conducted by SEESAC, focusing on women’s participation in SALW control and the institutional response to firearm misuse in cases of domestic violence.
- In December 2024, MoIA officials participated in the training on ethical reporting of GBV cases involving firearms.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

*Was a Firearms Focal Point (FFP) 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 has been established since the end of 2016, the first established FFP in the region. It is currently operational.
- On 3-5 December 2024, three FFP representatives participated in the Annual Regional FFP Meeting and the Horizon Scanning and High-Value Targets Training, held in Montenegro.

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?

- Communication and information exchange are conducted regularly via the SIENA platform.

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?

- The MoIA does not have direct access to iARMS. The process is conducted through the UNMIK International Liaison Officer (ILO). During the reporting period, the MoI submitted 163 requests to register lost or stolen firearms on iARMS via UNMIK.

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 for 2024 has been appointed. During the JAD SEE 2024 activity held in Sarajevo, we actively participated in the operational coordination room and contributed to joint activities aimed at combating trafficking in arms, drugs, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling.

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?

- 159 firearms of various models have been submitted for international tracing through INTERPOL.
- 396 firearms, including those seized during the intelligence phase of the Operational Plan JAD SEE 2024, have been submitted to EUROPOL.
- 301 different firearms have been traced through the internal systems SERA and SIPK.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

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

- Accreditation of the ballistic methods according to the ISO 17025 standard has been completed, including examination of firearms, ammunition, cartridge cases, hunting ammunition cartridge cases, and their components, including bullets.

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?

- Five officials from the MoIA, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Kosovo¹ Forensic Agency participated in the 21st meeting of the Southeast Europe Firearms Experts Network, focusing on procedure accreditation.
- On 18-20 September 2024, two officials from the Forensic Agency took part in the ENFSI Firearms Expert Working Group meeting held in Vienna.
- 516 community police officers and members of Local Public Safety Committees and Municipal Safety Councils (including 33 women and 483 men) participated in 13 training sessions across all Regional Police Directorates. These sessions focused on SALW control, regular inspections of legal entities handling weapons and ammunition, legal trade, and the prevention of firearm use in cases of domestic violence.
- 10 officials participated in an analytical training on key aspects related to firearms, held in Pristina.
- Donations received during the reporting period have contributed to strengthening investigative capacities

¹ 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.

and enhancing operational effectiveness, such as:

- 3 thermal cameras, 37 flashlights, and 2 handheld X-ray devices from UNDP;
- 4 drones from the United Kingdom;
- 12 thermal cameras, 10 document verification devices, 10 DACIA vehicles, and 3 Smartdec kits from the U.S. Embassy.

2.1.1 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?

- Improving facilitation of data collection and dissemination remains a need.
- Further support is needed in the areas of trainings and equipment related to the detection of firearms during operations.
- Improvement of SALW-related data collection across all institutions has been achieved, alongside increased cooperation and the development of institutional methods and practices for data collection.

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?

- **Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):**
 - On 18 November 2024, the SALW Commission of BiH organised the 12th local coordination meeting of the Roadmap in Sarajevo. During the meeting, the SALW Commission presented information on the progress achieved, existing challenges, and needs related to the objectives defined in the Roadmap.
 - On 10-11 December 2024, four officials from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, the MoD, the Federal Police Administration, and the MoI of Republika Srpska participated in the 12th Regional Coordination Meeting of the Roadmap, held in Skopje, North Macedonia.
 - On 11 July 2024, five officials, including the President of the SALW Coordination Board and representatives from the Ministry of Security, MoD, Federal Police Administration, and MoI of Republika Srpska participated in the 19th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions in Podgorica.
 - On 12 December 2024, the delegation from BiH also took part in the 20th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions in Skopje.
 - Throughout the year, representatives of the SALW Commission actively participated in international forums such as the Joint Committee of Firearms Experts of the European Union (EFE) and the South East Europe Group of Firearms Experts (SEEFEN).
- Work on the new Strategy for the Control of SALW in BiH for 2025–2030 and its Action Plan for 2025–2027 continued throughout the reporting period. On 23-25 October 2024, the SALW Commission organised a meeting in Sarajevo for reviewing and finalizing the draft Strategy and Action Plan. The document is based on gender- and age-disaggregated data. The SALW Strategy and its Action Plan were adopted in early 2025.

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

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 disaggregated by sex and age. The Prosecutor's Office uses the TCMS system, which contains relevant data.
- **State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA):** Data is collected regularly through daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting. Data is not disaggregated by sex or age, but it will be implemented when a single reporting form is established.
- **Federal Mol:** No centralized data collection is available for the entire territory of the Federation, but data is collected individually in each institution. The Federal Police Administration maintains data disaggregated by gender and age for individuals from whom illegal firearms and ammunition have been seized. This is supplemented by data on whether the individual is a repeat offender of criminal offenses.
- **Republika Srpska Mol:** The Law on Arms and Ammunition mandates the maintenance of records on weapons and ammunition. The content and method of keeping these records are defined by the Rulebook on the Content and Manner of Keeping Records on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 94/16).
- **Brčko District Police and Una-Sana Canton Mol:** Data collection is not standardized and institutionalized and it is not disaggregated by sex and age. The collection of criminal justice data is not institutionalized either.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol:** Yes, data is standardized.
- **Sarajevo Canton Mol and Canton 10 Mol:** No, data is not standardized.
- **Border police BiH, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, and West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

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?

- **Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board; Directorate for coordination of police bodies BiH; Indirect Taxation Authority, etc.):**
 - On 15-17 October 2024, the SALW Coordination Board held a meeting in Sarajevo with 24 participants, to discuss challenges faced by women in law enforcement and their role in SALW control.
 - A training session on the “Misuse of SALW in the Context of Gender-Based Violence” was held within the OSCE BiH SALW project “Addressing the Security and Safety Risks of Illicit Possession, Abuse, and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH”. The training followed the first meeting of the Working Group for Supporting Inter-institutional Dialogue and Gender Analysis on SALW misuse in BiH. One officer of the BiH Border Police participated in the meeting.
 - Representatives of two police women’s associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the SALW Coordination Board meeting, contributing to the development of the 2025–2027 Action Plan aligned with the new SALW Control Strategy for 2025–2030.
 - 22 representatives from the Ministry of Security completed a training session on gender-responsive firearm safety and control policies, as part of the Gender Equality Seal Program for Public Institutions. The initiative is supported by the UNDP in BiH and the BiH Agency for Gender Equality, with additional

activities planned for 2025.

- **Una-Sana Canton Mol** and **Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol** reported that activities took place but did not provide further information.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** Yes. Women's NGOs are involved.
- **Canton 10 Mol:**
 - One female police officer participated in the training “Networking and Enhancing the Capacity of the Network of Women in Police to Actively Participate in SALW Control Policies,” organised by the Association “Network of Female Police Officers.”
 - Four police officers took part in the workshops “Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in BiH,” organised by the Association “Network of Police Officers.” The workshops aimed to improve police knowledge on the abuse and control of SALW, with a focus on gender-based violence.
- **SIPA**, and **Brcko District Police** reported that they conducted no activities related to gender mainstreaming.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Border police BiH, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj 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.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

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

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

- No. Relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a firearm focal point.

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?

- **SIPA:** Regular information exchange was carried out through EUROPOL, using all forms of assistance offered by the agency. Communication and operational cooperation were established in specific investigative cases concerning the unauthorized trafficking of firearms and narcotics. Due to the ongoing nature of these investigations, detailed information cannot be disclosed at this time.
- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies:** Until June 14, 2023, the Directorate, Department for Cooperation with Europol, regularly used Europol's protected SIENA communication system for exchanging information on firearms. Since that date, the system has been operational and functional through the Joint Contact Point for Cooperation of BiH.
- **Indirect Taxation Authority:** From 1 July-31 December 2024, the Operational Affairs Group received 54 requests from the Sector for the Implementation of Regulations of the Indirect Taxation Directorate via EUROPOL's protected line at the Operations Center. None of these requests though concerned firearms or ammunition.
- **Republika Srpska Mol:** Yes, information is exchanged through the Joint Contact Point of BiH for cooperation with EUROPOL.
- **Federal Mol:** When the need arises, cooperation with Europol is conducted through the Joint Contact Point.
- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol** reported the use of SIENA during the reporting period.
- **Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol** and **Canton 10 Mol** reported no use of SIENA during the reporting period.

- Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior provided no information.

2.6 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?

- **SIPA:**
 - SIPA signed an agreement with the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies - NCB INTERPOL Sarajevo regarding the use of the "iARMS" database. This centralized system enables authorized police officers to enter and search data on lost, stolen, and smuggled weapons. Three SIPA officers were trained to operate the database, and Interpol donated two desktops for this purpose at the Agency's headquarters. During the reporting period, one additional SIPA officer received training for working with the database.
- **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 the Mol of Republika Srpska. During the reporting period, the Directorate processed 57 cases/requests related to firearms.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** Yes. Data is provided on a regular basis.
- **Una-Sana Canton Mol and Canton 10 Mol:** Yes. There was no data entry into iARMS.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol:** Yes, but we do not have trained officers to use iARMS.
- **Brcko District Police and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol** reported access to iARMS.
- **Republika Srpska Mol and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol** reported no access to iARMS.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Indirect Taxation Authority, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

2.7 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?

- **SIPA:** Participation in the Operational Action JAD SEE 2024.
- **Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies BiH:** The coordinator of activities related to the JAD is the Joint Contact Point (JCCP) of BiH for cooperation with Europol, which also consists of a representative from the Directorate.
- **Federal Mol:** The Federal Police Directorate appoints its coordinator for the implementation of each operational action, who actively participates in these actions. Available information is also exchanged during these actions.
- **Republika Srpska Mol:** Participation in the Operational Action JAD SEE 2024.
- **Brcko District Police and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol** reported participation in the JADs. **Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** did not appoint a JAD Coordinator or participate in a JAD during the reporting period.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj 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.

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?

- **SIPA:** In the reporting period, police officers used the iARMS database to verify temporarily seized weapons found during operations to prevent migrant smuggling.
- **Republika Srpska MoI:** The tracing of found and/or seized firearms and ammunition is conducted by recording them in various registers, depending on the basis of the recording.
- **Una-Sana Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI** reported that tracing was conducted during the reporting period but provided no details.
- **Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton MoI, and Canton 10 MoI** reported that no tracing was conducted during the reporting period.
- **Federal 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.

2.9 Accreditation of the ballistic laboratory

Guiding question:

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

- **SIPA:** The Agency does not have an organisational unit to perform ballistic expertise.
- **BiH Ministry of Security:** Exchanges of experts in ballistics and explosives between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia enabled exchange of knowledge, experience, and technical capacities, and enhanced further regional cooperation. Additionally, an analysis of technical capacities for the ballistic laboratories in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, the Agency for Forensic Testing and Expertise, and the Brcko District Police was conducted.
- **Republika Srpska MoI** conducts ballistic expertise at the Laboratory for Ballistics, Mechanoscopy, and Traffic and Technical Expertise, part of the Department of Criminal and Technical Expertise and Examination within the Forensics Unit of the Criminal and Technical Center of the Police Support Directorate. Four experts (two male and two female) perform ballistic examinations.
 - The laboratory carries out the following expert examinations in the field of weapon expertise, casings, and hunting bullet casings:
 - Identification of the type, brand/manufacturer, model, caliber, and factory number of weapons;
 - Assessment of the correct functioning of weapons;
 - Comparison of casings, grains, and parts found at crime scenes with those fired from submitted firearms;
 - Determination of the firearm's type, brand/manufacturer, and model based on markings on casings and bullets;
 - Examination of firearms, casings, and grains using the automated ballistic identification systems "ARSENAL" and "EVOFINDER," cross-referenced with the Collection of Disputed Casings from Unresolved Serious Crimes in Republika Srpska;
 - Establishing the point where a criminal offense perpetrator was stopped based on the location of casings found;
 - Determining the projectile's direction and trajectory based on material traces at the crime scene;
 - Detection of gunpowder particle traces on weapons, objects, and persons;
 - Measurement of shooting distance;
 - Providing expert opinions on weapons and ammunition;

- Event reconstruction to determine the dynamics at the scene of firearm use;
- Establishing the order in which projectiles passed through objects, such as glass.
- The methods of ballistic expertise at the Laboratory for Ballistics, Mechanoscopy, and Traffic and technical expertise are not yet accredited under the ISO/IEC 17025:2018 standard. However, two comparative methods for casings and grains are currently in the process of accreditation. The pace of document preparation for this accreditation largely depends on the workload of experts involved in expert witnessing for prosecutor’s offices, courts, and the organisational units of the Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska.
- Regarding ballistic capabilities, the laboratory acquired a modern Projectina Vision X comparative microscope at the beginning of 2025, along with automated ballistic identification systems EVOFINDER and ARSENAL, meeting all prerequisites for the accreditation process.
- **Brcko District Police and Zenica-Doboj Mol:** No laboratory is in place, but ballistic capacities are available.
- **Federal Mol:** Yes, the laboratory exists and is accredited by the BATA Institute for Accreditation in BiH according to ISO standard 17025.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** The lab is in place but is not accredited. Accreditation activities are ongoing.
- **Sarajevo Canton Mol:** The lab is in place but is not accredited. It corresponds to all standards, since experts are also permanent court experts with extensive experience accredited by official judicial institutions. The equipment used by the laboratory is state-of-the-art, meeting standards observed in most ballistic laboratories worldwide. The planning of the laboratory accreditation is currently underway. Domestic legislation and practice do not require this type of accreditation. Laboratory capacities are:
 - Comparatives 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 Mol:** The laboratory is in place but is not accredited.
- **Una-Sana Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol** responded that they do not have ballistic laboratories/capacities.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina 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?

- **BiH Ministry of Security:** The following activities were undertaken to improve investigation capacities of firearms-related crimes, with substantial support from international organizations, primarily SEESAC, through technical assistance, specialized training, equipment, and facilitated regional cooperation:
 - During the reporting period, institutions in BiH took concrete steps to enhance their capacity to investigate firearms-related crimes. They actively participated in regional meetings of the SEEFEN network, as well as meetings of criminal police and customs services, which further strengthened operational cooperation and the exchange of experience in combating arms smuggling.
 - SOPs for criminal police work have been developed and submitted. Officials from BiH completed multiple professional trainings, including OSINT training, analytical courses for FFPs and training focused on combating horizontal threats and high-value targets. Throughout 2024, joint cross-border exercises were conducted with neighbouring jurisdictions involving prosecutors’ offices, border police, and customs services to test and improve existing procedures.
 - Modern technical equipment – such as explosive detectors, microscopes, IT devices, and investigative tools – was delivered to law enforcement institutions in BiH, significantly enhancing technical investigative capacities. Action plans and guidelines for Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) units were also

developed in line with ISO/IEC 17020:2012 requirements.

- Within UNDP BiH projects, specialized equipment were procured for 14 police agencies, including 26 detection devices scheduled for delivery in 2025. Additionally, at the request of the RS Ministry of Interior, support was provided for training cadets through the procurement of weapon replicas for practice purposes.
- In 2024, technical consultations were held to develop a new digital application for registering legally possessed weapons in the Federation of BiH, considering the competencies of cantonal ministries.
- To further strengthen investigative capacity, four domestic and two cross-border exercises were conducted with police, customs, and prosecutors' offices from BiH and Montenegro, focusing on combating illegal arms trafficking and testing inter-institutional procedures. These exercises involved 98 officers from 15 police agencies in BiH. Identified shortcomings will be addressed in future improvements.
- Guidelines for investigations related to firearms were developed for police academy cadets in BiH. The final version was presented to the Federation of BiH Police Academy, which expressed interest in integrating it into their curriculum.
- In cooperation with prosecutors' offices, 5 consultative meetings were held with 29 prosecutors from BiH to develop a Manual for Investigation of Firearms-Related Crimes. This manual, to be finalized in 2025, aims to provide improved guidelines for cooperation between police and prosecutors in these investigations.
- **SIPA:**
 - Police officers from the Agency participated in the HALT (Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina), CIAT (Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking), LEAD, DIRC, and PILLAR projects. These initiatives involved active engagement by the Agency's officers. The primary aim of these projects was to review the standard operating procedures adopted and implemented during interventions, inspections, and efforts to enhance the capacity of police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enforce the law. This includes preventing and detecting the illicit trade in SALW and undertaking procedural actions related to SALW-related crimes in accordance with the provisions of the BiH Law on Criminal Procedure.
 - During the reporting period, a police officer from the Agency participated in the Regional Meeting of the South East European Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN). The meeting focused on exchanging information and knowledge about illegal firearms trafficking, addressing challenges faced by police officers, emerging trends, and effective strategies in the field.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol:** We are actively working to strengthen personnel capacities, procuring adequate equipment, and strengthening the inter-institutional cooperation among police agencies, prosecutors' offices, and courts.
- **Brcko District Police** reported that they conducted activities but provided no details.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol** and **Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol** reported that no activities were undertaken in improving the investigation capacities of firearms related crimes in the reporting period.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Ministry of Interior, Canton 10 Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, 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?

- **Republika Srpska Mol:** A comparative microscope for ballistic expertise was identified as a need in the

previous reporting period. The request has been submitted and the handover process is underway with support from SEESAC. The equipment will significantly support the accreditation of ballistic expertise.

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:
 - Identifying and determining the impact of SALW on society, security, and the economic and social development of North Macedonia;
 - Defining the priorities in SALW control intervention and Action Plan implementation;
 - Determining and developing operational intervention measures for SALW control that result from this goal;
 - Coordinating the activities of all relevant stakeholders to support the Action Plan (AP) on SALW;
 - Providing timely information to all relevant stakeholders to support the AP;
 - Monitoring of all components of the SALW measures and activities to support the AP on SALW;
 - Evaluating all components of the SALW measures and activities in support of the AP on SALW;
 - Organizing working meetings, the dynamics of which is determined by the President of the SALW Commission;
- The SALW Commission provided data to SEESAC through the 12th Progress Narrative Report on the implementation of the Roadmap, covering 01 January-30 June 2024.
- On 26 November 2024, the SALW Commission organised the 12th Local Coordination Meeting with support from SEESAC. The SALW Commission presented the progress achieved in the implementation of the Roadmap in the first half of 2024.
- During the reporting period, the SALW Commission also participated in the following meetings:
 - 09-10 July 2024 – 11th Regional Roadmap Coordination Meeting for the implementation progress of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap.
 - 11 July 2024 – 19th Regional Meeting of the SALW Commissions in Podgorica, Montenegro. Key topics included the regulatory framework for firearms, ammunition, and explosives, alignment with the EU Acquis, development of gender-responsive and evidence-based policies, and addressing the misuse of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence.
 - 28-29 October 2024 – EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs, during which North Macedonia endorsed the second phase of the Roadmap until 2030.
 - 10-11 December 2024 – the 12th Regional Coordination Meeting of the Western Balkans SALW Commissions, held in Skopje.
 - 12-13 December 2024 – the 20th Regional Meeting of the SALW Commissions in Skopje.
- The SALW Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2024, developed with support from SEESAC, was adopted in October 2022. The Action Plan includes activities for data analysis disaggregated by sex and age. The strategic objectives of the Strategy are fully aligned with the objectives of the Roadmap. In 2025, the current strategy will undergo evaluation, followed by the development of a new Strategy in line with the revised 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?

- Data collection is standardized according to the EUROPOL methodology for the Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) 2021. Data is collected through the Information Management System (IMS). As of 01 September 2021, the new Alphabetical Index and Crime application enables disaggregation of data on crimes related to the illegal trade in weapons by gender and age, distinguishing between perpetrators, injured parties, and victims.

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?

- On 4-8 November 2024, representatives from North Macedonia participated in the Regional Training of Trainers on the Application of the Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Firearm License Approval in Budva, Montenegro.
- On 15-16 July 2024, representatives from the media, the prosecutor's office, the MoI, and the police service of North Macedonia participated in the training on ethical reporting of GBV cases involving firearms.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point (FFP) 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 is not fully operational.
- On 03-05 December 2024, FFP representatives participated in the Annual Regional FFP Meeting and the Horizon Scanning and High-Value Targets Training, held in Montenegro.

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, SIENA was regularly used in daily operations and during the implementation of operational actions for the exchange of firearm-related 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, we have access to the iARMS database. During the reporting period, this tool was used, and data was manually entered on a daily basis. Regular checks were conducted, and information was exchanged between law enforcement services concerning the international movement of illegal firearms, as well as legal

weapons that had been lost or stolen and were used in criminal activities. This facilitated information exchange through NCB Interpol Skopje. In addition to the Department for International Police Cooperation, access to the iARMS database is granted to several other key units, including the Criminal Police Department (Unit for Illicit Trafficking in Weapons, Dangerous Substances, and Radioactive Material), the Ballistics Sector at the Forensics Department, the Criminal Intelligence and Analysis Department, the Organized and Serious Crime Department (Violent Crime Unit), and the Customs Administration (AIRCOP - BIU). Activities are currently underway to connect the Unit for Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Weapons at SoLA Skopje.

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, a coordinator from the Unit for Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Dangerous Substances, and Radioactive Materials within the Criminal Police Department has been appointed for the Joint Action Days.
- On 21-26 October 2024, the MoI participated in the intelligence phase of the JAD 2024 in coordination with EMPACT and EUROPOL.

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, international tracing was conducted for weapons seized in the territory of North Macedonia.

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 in the Unit of Ballistics, Firearms, and Explosives at the Department of Criminal Investigations and Expertise (DCIE) is accredited for two methods:
 - Comparative analysis of cartridge cases;
 - Comparative analysis of projectiles;
- Working manuals, SOPs, and other documents aligned with the general framework of the ISO standard have been developed to support these accredited methods.

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?

- With support from SEESAC, the following SOPs were developed:
 - The SOP for risk analysis, in cases of weapons, ammunition, and explosive detection, and emergency situations;
 - The SOP for the operation of the FFP;
- The development of SOPs on lost and stolen firearms continued during the reporting period.

- On 25-29 November 2024, two experts from the French Forensic Police Department met with MoI representatives, fostering knowledge exchange and collaborative opportunities.

2.1.1 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 ballistics laboratory is currently accredited for only two methods. To enhance its operational capacity, it is imperative to introduce additional accredited methods. Specifically”
 - Method to determine whether a weapon is in proper working order;
 - Method to determine whether ammunition is in proper working order.
- The implementation of these methods presents significant challenges. To address these, expert support and exchange of experiences with other laboratories are needed for the development and accreditation of these methods.

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 SALW Commission 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 create favourable conditions for sustainable development in Albania. **During the reporting period, the SALW Commission undertook the following activities:**
 - Monitoring the 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 its obligations under the goals of the Regional Roadmap on the control of SALW in the Western Balkans, including the Key Performance Indicators.
 - Submitting the progress report on the implementation of the Western Balkans Roadmap for the period January-June 2024.
- **The SALW Commission organised/attended the following meetings:**
 - During the reporting period, Albania hosted the 12th Local Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Roadmap, bringing together relevant stakeholders to assess progress and define priorities.
 - On 9-10 July 2024, representatives of the SALW Commission, including representatives from the MoI, General Directorate of Police, AKSHE, and the MoD, participated in the 12th Regional Coordination Meeting, and on 11 July 2024, in the 20th Regional Meeting of SALW Commissions.
- **The Head of the SALW Commission represented Albania at:**
 - The Regional Steering Group on SALW on 7 March 2024, presenting the priorities for the year.
 - The Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on SALW and its International Tracing Instrument on 19-21 June 2024, in New York.
- 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” 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”.

- During the first half of 2025, Albania will conduct an evaluation analysis of the strategy and its action plan, with the goal of updating the strategic framework for SALW control for the coming years.
- Albania reaffirmed its commitment to continue implementing the Western Balkans Roadmap on SALW Control beyond 2024, as declared at the high-level meeting in Brussels on 16 May 2023. This commitment aligns with the goals, findings, and recommendations outlined in the mid-term review of the Roadmap while also considering the evolving security landscape in the region. In this context, the SALW Commission has contributed inputs and suggestions for the revision of the 2025-2030 Regional Roadmap for the Control of SALW in the Western Balkans, which was endorsed during the EU–Western Balkans Ministerial on Justice and Home Affairs held in Budva on 28-29 October 2024.
- The strategic framework on SALW control will be developed in alignment with the revised Roadmap and its overarching approach. It will also incorporate specific interventions tailored to Albania’s priorities and needs. Furthermore, the framework will include the period 2025-2030 and will reflect the evolving security landscape in the region, challenges encountered during the implementation of the previous strategy, and their implications in SALW control.

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 its impact on Albania 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 provide 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 currently undergoing an upgrade focused on data reorganization and generation, with support from SEESAC. However, due to unexpected funding cuts, alternative other funding opportunities are being explored.

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?*

- On 16-17 October 2024, four representatives from the SALW Commission and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination were among 19 participants to attend a regional advanced training on gender aspect in SALW control policies in Herceg Novi, Montenegro. The training aimed to strengthen institutional capacities for developing gender-responsive SALW control policies and to promote inter-institutional collaboration between SALW commissions and gender equality agencies.
- On 4-8 November 2024, representatives of the Police participated in a regional training of trainers on the practical implementation of the Guidelines on Gender-Responsive Firearms License Approval, held in Montenegro. Three Police representatives successfully completed the training and will now organize and deliver one-day trainings within their respective structures, with support from SEESAC.

2.4 Establishment and operationalization of the Firearms Focal Point

Guiding questions:

Was a Firearms Focal Point (FFP) 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 FFP was established and is operational as a physical unit within the Sector of Illicit Trafficking at the General Directorate of the Police.
- The FFP collects and analyses firearms-related data. It has access to, collects, and analyzes data from different Police systems that provide general information about weapons, such as TIMS, DEEPSEE, and SIMA, to compile different analyses and reports.
- The FFP has access to iARMS and regularly contributes by entering data on firearms reported as lost or stolen through Interpol Tirana, which is part of the Department of International Relations at the Police. Following organisational changes and its establishment as a permanent structure, the FFP is in the process of obtaining direct access for its specialists to improve the FFP's capacities.
- The FFP participated in the following meetings and activities:
 - On 23-27 September 2024, FFP representatives participated in the Analyst's Notebook training organised by SEESAC in Tirana. The training included theoretical and practical sessions on data collection and analysis, focusing on advanced visual analysis techniques, graphs, and imported data through case studies and simulations. It enhanced the capacities of the FFP to perform analyses and generate operational and strategic outcomes, as well as utilize Analyst's Notebook for firearms investigations, thereby facilitating information sharing with the region.
 - On 10-13 December 2024, 13 representatives from various law enforcement agencies across Albania took part in the FFP Analyst Training, held in Tirana. The training addressed the firearm investigation needs of Albania's Law Enforcement Agencies, focusing on data collection, intelligence analysis, assistance in firearms-related investigations, cross-border investigations, and new threats and challenges including firearms trafficking, tracing, and the escalating threat posed by 3D-printed weapons.
 - On 3-5 December 2024, three representatives of the FFP participated in the Regional Meeting of FFPs and Horizon Scanning training held in Montenegro. During the meeting, the draft Regional Threat Assessment was presented along with discussions on the current status and functionality of the FFPs in the region, addressing structural frameworks, operational capacities, challenges, best practices, and emerging trends in illicit firearms possession, misuse, and trafficking.

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.

- The FFP regularly exchanges information on Standard Operating Plans, as well as data and analyses within the framework of Joint Action Days (JAD). This communication channel allows the FFP to provide information on specific cases and request data from other countries when they have apprehended individuals, seized weapons, or possessed police information relevant to a particular case. Additionally, for every firearm and ammunition trafficking the FFP shares information with Europol through the SIENA channel. It is also important to note that information continues to be exchanged with Greece and Kosovo on cases of firearm trafficking.
- 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.

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?

- From July to December 2024, the FFP did not have direct access to the iARMS system but has recently been granted access to Interpol's iARMS system. FFP members use iARMS to trace firearms seized in Albania, supported by a Tirana-based Interpol specialist.
- During the reporting period, 43 seized firearms were verified through iARMS. Upon obtaining direct access, the FFP continues to verify all firearms seized in 2024 with unknown origins.

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 coordinator for the reporting period and throughout 2025 has been appointed. The FFP actively participated in the planned EMPACT activities for 2024 and will coordinate these activities in 2025. During the reporting period, the FFP took part in preparatory tasks for Operation SEE JAD, including debriefing and intelligence phase meetings. Additionally, the FFP has served as a coordinator in international operations such as Armstrong, Conversus, and SEE JAD. As in previous years, the FFP continues to communicate, verify, and exchange information in real time. For each international operation involving Albania, reports on achieved results have been prepared and submitted to Europol.
- More specifically, the Police also participated in three international operations conducted under the framework of JADs within the EMPACT platform during the reporting period:
 - 1) International operation SEE JAD took place from 21–26 October 2024, with the objective of preventing and detecting firearms trafficking, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, and the

- disruption of high-risk criminal networks, as part of the EMPACT JADs in South-east Europe.
- 2) International operation Armstrong, conducted from 18–22 November 2024, focused on thorough inspections of postal parcels entering and exiting border crossing points, with the aim of preventing and detecting firearms trafficking via postal services.
 - 3) International operation Toro, a “cyber patrolling” activity, included the participation of the Police structures in Madrid, Spain, from 18 to 22 March 2024 under “OA 3.1 EMPACT Firearms”. In all 3 operations, the Police structures cooperated and exchanged information with Western Balkans jurisdictions, Europol, Frontex, and EU MSs, and developed three operational plans.
- During this cooperation period, JAD EMPACT proposed that Albania becomes joint coordinator of Operation SEE JAD in 2025, with the aim of hosting and jointly coordinating the International Command Operational Centre (ICOC) JAD SEE. A working group has been established, and procedures are underway to establish the Coordination Centre in Tirana by November 2025.

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, or lost firearm whose origin is unknown, as a result of the capacity-building efforts of the FFP. While the FFP does not yet have direct access to iARMS, verifications are carried out through INTERPOL. During the reporting period, data on 43 seized firearms were entered into iARMS, with the response indicating a negative result.
- During this period, the FFP was also granted direct access to SIMA (Firearms Management Database). In the reporting period, 252 firearms were verified through SIMA following requests from foreign authorities; these firearms had no corresponding cases in the Police database.
- At the request of local authorities, a verification was conducted for 6 firearms, of which 2 were found to be registered in the Police 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 yet accredited**. From a technical standpoint, the Forensic Police Institute is well-equipped to conduct ballistic, traceological, and gunshot residue (GSR) examinations, among others. As part of the accreditation process, standard operating procedures (five procedures) for these examinations have been approved. These procedures have been reviewed in consultation with an expert contracted by UNDP under the project “Support Albania’s Law Enforcement Authorities to Strengthen Firearms Criminality Evidence Management and Investigation Capacities”. Work is currently underway to validate and calibrate these procedures, with the ultimate goal of achieving accreditation.
- In a dedicated meeting with two representatives from the crime scene investigation units of the Forensic Police Institute and two representatives from the General Directorate of Police, SEESAC presented the findings of a Gap Analysis comparing the units’ SOPs with the best practices of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). The presentation included recommendations for updating the existing SOPs.
- The Forensic Police Institute received Guidelines developed by SEESAC for creating a Quality Management System (QMS) manual. This manual outlines organisational procedures and includes policies, manuals, and work instructions necessary to achieve ISO/IEC 17020:2012 accreditation.

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?

- Within the Annual Training Programme, 122 training sessions were conducted for the Criminal Police Department employees, covering general investigative techniques and investigations of criminal offenses involving firearms. Additionally, six training sessions were held with external stakeholders outside the police structures, where analysts from the FFP received specialized training.
- Between July and December 2024, the Police carried out various training sessions for investigative officers from the Sector of Illicit Trafficking Investigation in the Local Police Directorates. Of these, two sessions focused on general trafficking investigations, and one session specifically addressed “Special investigation methods in cases of firearms trafficking”.
- Representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, the Police, the Ballistics Sector of the Forensic Police Institute, the Border Department, and the Anti-Trafficking Directorate participated in the 21st Regional Meeting of the South East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN), held on November 19–20, 2024, in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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?

- Additional training is needed for FFP specialists to fully utilize the iARMS system.

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.

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?

- Serbia implements and monitors the legal, political, and procedural framework for reducing the illicit trade in FAE trafficking in accordance with the legislation in place, such as laws in the field of weapons, criminal offences, by-laws, and internationally undertaken obligations.
- The Rulebook on Criminal Records (by-law in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code) regulates the system of data exchange and the role of the prosecutor's office, the MoI, and courts in the criminal procedure. 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 the police, the prosecutor's office, 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.

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?

- During the reporting period, the Customs Administration seized: **62 weapons pieces, 32 pieces of weapon parts, and 692 pieces of ammunition.**
- In the reporting period, the Border and the Criminal Police received a number of specialized equipment, including a georadar, an independent laboratory for testing firearms, a monocular thermal imaging camera, and a digital SLR camera.
- A training on the operation of georadar devices was delivered through a combination of theoretical instruction and practical exercises.
- During the reporting period, the Customs Administration undertook several activities under the HERMES Project in cooperation with the public company Pošta Srbije (Serbian Post Office). The project aims to strengthen the capacity to detect firearms, their components, ammunition, explosives, and other hazardous goods in postal traffic. Currently in its second phase, the project includes the donation of specialised detection equipment (x-ray devices) to Serbia, training on interpreting x-ray images and identifying weapons in parcels, as well as a workshop focused on indicators and risk analysis in postal traffic.
- To strengthen online investigations of the illicit trade in firearms, Serbia's Ministry of Interior is participating in the EU's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, specifically within the CEASEFIRE project "Advanced Versatile Artificial Intelligence Technologies and Interconnected Cross-Sectoral Fully-Operational Firearm Focal Points for Combating Illicit Firearms Trafficking". In October 2024, the Ministry organised a pilot test of the programme in cooperation with the Criminal Police Directorate (CPD). In the reporting period, the Ministry also took part in regular coordination meetings and partnered with the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies to support the research. A student contributed to the results of the investigation. The first plenary meeting of the consortium, along with a new pilot phase, is scheduled for 2025.
- On 19-20 November 2024, relevant officials participated in the 21st Regional Meeting of the South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) in Jahorina, BIH.
- During the reporting period, the following activities on combating firearms trafficking were also conducted:
 - On 10-11 September 2024, relevant officials participated in seminars on the control of export and import of dual-use goods, as well as weapons and military equipment in Belgrade.
 - On 5-6 November 2024, relevant authorities participated in the Regional Meeting of the Border Police and Customs representatives in Pržno, Montenegro.
 - On 4-8 November 2024, relevant officials participated in a high-level police and customs conference on SALW and people smuggling in Skopje, North Macedonia.
 - On 26 November 2024, relevant officials delivered a lecture to the Somalian police officers on the "Methodology of Proving the Criminal Activities of Organised Criminal Groups in the Field of General Crime", with particular emphasis on the illicit trade in SALW.
 - On 4-5 December 2024, officials participated in the workshop "Regional Exchange of Experience: Prevention of Diversion of Weapons and Compliance with Sanctions" held at the Embassy of the United States of America in Belgrade.
- The following activities were conducted to strengthen K-9 capacity for detecting weapons and explosives:
 - In July 2024, the MoI submitted statistical data on K-9 use to support the Master Plan development. An Austrian expert participated in the Working Group's second meeting to help define the plan's structure and support donation processes. Equipment received by the Police Brigade in October 2024

included surgical and medical tools, branding materials, and specialized dog training gear (e.g. running belts, harnesses, vests, and leashes).

- From 28 October to 6 December 2024, two officials from the Police Directorate participated in a six-week SAMBI training (narcotics, weapons, ammunition, banknotes detection), facilitated by the French Gendarmerie.
- During the reporting period, consultations and site visits were conducted to finalise the project assignment for Bežanijska Kosa. The draft was reviewed at the fourth Working Group meeting on 26 September, followed by a site visit on 17 October 2024.
- The finalised amendments to the MoU with the OSCE were signed on 20 December 2024.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

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

- A control mechanism for explosive precursors is **not in place**. Its establishment is planned for the upcoming period.

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?

- The existing international mechanisms have been further strengthened through the regular exchange of operational knowledge via international cooperation channels, the sharing of strategic information on newly identified modus operandi and arms smuggling routes, as well as through participation in international events and joint operational activities focused on these issues.
- The police continue to make active use of investigative tools offered by EMPACT and Europol. To this end, efforts to promote the available tools among the competent authorities have been sustained, including through joint meetings and case-related contacts.
- To enhance participation in EMPACT Operational Action Plans (OAPs), particularly the OAP on firearms, the working group has continued its work for harmonisation with European Union police cooperation instruments and the further development of international operational police cooperation within the EU Policy Cycle. This group, chaired by the EMPACT Coordinator (NEC), has become more operational through the appointment of designated contact persons for each OAP and Operational Activity (OA) to improve coordination. Its work has significantly contributed to improved coordination and monitoring of activity implementation, and more comprehensive reporting, thereby facilitating greater use of EMPACT and Europol tools and support mechanisms.
- The police is involved in a total of 73 OAs under all 10 EMPACT OAPs for the 2024–2025 period, acting as a co-leader in four of them.

3.6 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.

3.7 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 and FRONTEX signed in 2009. Under the Working Arrangement, the Border Police Directorate of the MoI collects and analyses data on seizures of weapons and ammunition. Border police officers submit monthly reports in a format stipulated by FRONTEX, which is harmonized with the format used by EU Member States. During the reporting period, **6 regular monthly reports were submitted.** FRONTEX Application 12G is used to enter information on seizures of weapons and ammunition, using a prescribed form which contains: the number of individual cases of detection of weapons and ammunition, the nationality of the person with whom the weapon and ammunition were detected, type of the detected weapon, the amount of seized weapons, the number of parts of seized weapons, the amount of ammunition seized, how the person from whom the weapon was seized approached border control, the place where the weapon and ammunition were found, the license plate of the vehicle where the weapon or ammunition was found, whether it was detected at the ports of entry or near the border, and whether it was detected on entry or exit from Serbia (which border crossing point and border crossing point type).
- **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.
- The MoI continuously exchanges operational, personal, and other investigation-related data at all levels. Information is shared with all relevant counterparts in the region, depending on the specific assessment and the communication channels available at the time. This exchange takes place through secure systems such as Interpol's I-24/7 network, Europol's SIENA platform, and, where applicable, via the SELEC Centre or designated Liaison Officers.

3.8 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, Serbia's authorities continued participating in the second phase of the project Justitia supported by UNODC.
 - On 3 October 2024, relevant officials participated in a workshop on the harmonisation of judicial practice in firearms-related cases in Belgrade, as part of the Justitia project.
 - In December 2024, representatives from the prosecutor's offices attended a two-day meeting to strengthen cooperation, exchange experiences, and improve coordination between institutions for the prosecution of firearm-related crimes.
- **EUROJUST** – Serbia signed the Cooperation Agreement with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST) on 12 November 2019.
 - In order to facilitate cooperation with EUROJUST, in March 2020, Serbia's Public Prosecutor's Office seconded the Deputy Public Prosecutor as the Liaison Prosecutor to EUROJUST. The Agreement provides for the possibility of posting a EUROJUST Liaison Magistrate to Serbia, with the approval of the EU Council. This Agreement significantly improves the role of EUROJUST and international cooperation, as it enables faster and more direct communication and cooperation, as well as synchronized action in

the fight against serious transnational crime through EUROJUST’s mechanisms and tools, such as coordination meetings, coordination centres, and Joint Investigation Teams (JITs).

- In the second half of 2024, the Liaison Prosecutor’s Office for Serbia at EUROJUST registered 47 new operational cases while in total in 2024, it registered a total of 88 new operational cases. Out of the total number of requests for assistance facilitated through Eurojust to support judicial cooperation in 2024, none were related to the criminal offence of illicit production, possession, carrying, or trafficking of weapons and explosives. However, the competent authorities of Serbia participated in 23 coordination meetings.
- During the reporting period, the competent authorities of Serbia participated in the 13th Coordination Meeting. These meetings primarily focused on coordinating actions for ongoing cases, reviewing progress, and analyzing outcomes achieved by established joint investigation teams (JITs).
- During the reporting period, Serbia participated in 8 active JITs, four of which had been established previously, and four were newly formed. Meetings were held to support their operations, during which relevant information was exchanged among representatives of the participating authorities.

3.9 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?

- Support in establishing a unified system for information exchange between the police, the prosecution, and the judiciary regarding cases related to firearms, including those under investigation and those with pronounced judgments, particularly final ones.
- Support in passing legal framework in the field of explosive precursors.
- Regarding familiarity with regulations governing the import, export, transport, and transit of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, as well as techniques for detecting illegal trade, continued training for customs officers is necessary. The Customs Administration offers specialized training titled “Controlling the Trade in Strategic Goods – Identification of Dual-Use Goods” based on the curriculum developed by the World Customs Organization. This training emphasizes customs control of arms and military equipment to enhance the knowledge of customs officers in this area, thus improving the effectiveness of controls.
- Custom officers responsible for border control should be equipped with necessary tools to improve the detection of smuggled firearms, ammunition, and explosives. To support this, efforts should be made to explore technical and financial assistance options through bilateral and international projects.

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 to SEESAC for the **2022 Regional Report on Arms Export**. The report was finalized and published in December 2024.

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?*

- Officers from the MoI's Police Directorate and the Customs Administration identified **16 incidents** in which firearms, ammunition, and explosives were recovered. Of these, 15 resulted in criminal complaints, with 15 individuals detained. Seized items included 7 firearms, 2,210 rounds of ammunition, 2 kg of gunpowder, and 12 signalling flares. 4 of the incidents occurred at land border crossing points, while 12 took place at air border crossing points. Fifteen of the seizures occurred during exit procedures from Montenegro, and one during entry. A comparative analysis of the incidents did not identify any individuals or items that could be directly linked across the cases.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Border Police have been prepared and adopted by competent authorities. At the official request of the Border Police, additional support was provided for the publication of SOPs related to risk analysis, which serve as guidelines for the work of the department for operational work and risk analysis.
- Representatives of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Economic Development and Customs Administration participated in a meeting organised by EXBS in Belgrade. The meeting covered the topic "Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Security: Strengthening Cross-Border Control and Compliance in Defence and Strategic Trade in Controlled Goods".
- Capacity- and operational-building activities for strengthening border control included:
 - On 5-6 November 2024, representatives from the Montenegrin Police Directorate and Customs Administration participated in the Regional Meeting of Customs and Border Police Representatives in Pržno.
 - 12 border police officers completed the advanced Training of Trainers/Multipliers for Border Checks of Documents and Live Firing which took place at the German Federal Police Academy.
 - 12 border police officers from the Border Police Regional Centres "South", "Centre", and "North", participated in the training "Prevention of Corruption at Border Crossing Points", held at the Police Academy in Danilovgrad. The training consisted of three sessions, conducted on 22 October, 29 October, and 5 November 2024.
 - On 9-13 December 2024, the border police officers participated in a training on firearm detection by SEESAC, upon request from the Montenegrin Border Police. The topics included: smuggling routes and modus operandi of organised crime groups, risk analysis methodologies for preventing firearms and explosives smuggling, case studies on new forms of smuggling, vehicle examination techniques for passenger and freight transport, concealment detection and practical exercises.
 - During the reporting period, the border police received a patrol boat equipped with two engines to support border security and surveillance activities on Lake Skadar.
 - Two K9 handlers from the Police Directorate's K9 Unit participated in Frontex's Regional K9 Handler Certification Programme, which consists of five modules. Three of these modules took place in 2024 (Module 1 in the first half of 2024, Module 2: Obedience Training on 30 September-11 October 2024,

and Module 3: Indication Training on 9-20 December 2024). Two modules are planned for 2025. The key objective of the programme is to harmonize K9 handler certification across the region and to strengthen the detection capacities of police K9 units.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

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

- Control mechanisms for conventional weapons are in place, but not for explosive precursors. To address this, the MoI has established a Working Group to develop a draft law on explosive precursors. Once adopted, this law will lay the groundwork for a control mechanism for 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?

- Cooperation with EUROPOL will continue at both strategic and operational levels in specific cases. The number of users of the SIENA secure communication network has been expanded to include additional organisational units of the Police Directorate. Data exchange with EUROPOL's analytical projects is ongoing.

3.6 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

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

- Montenegro collects data for the Global Study on Firearms Trafficking.

3.7 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, Frontex, and EU member states. Cooperation with Frontex was conducted under the EMPACT project, as well as through ongoing cooperation between the Police Directorate and the Border Police Department. This included participation in the K9 certification programme, supported by the OSCE.

3.8 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?

- On 1-3 October 2024, nine representatives from the Prosecutor's Offices, Police Directorate, and Customs Administration of Montenegro participated in the Second International Exercise of Law Enforcement Agencies, held in Čapljina, at Bajakovo Border Crossing Point, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



- On 26-28 November 2024, 12 representatives from the Prosecutor’s Offices, Police Directorate, and Customs Administration of Montenegro participated in the Third International Exercise of Law Enforcement Agencies organised by the UNDP Office in Sarajevo.
- On 23 October 2024, representatives of the Prosecutor's Office, Customs Administration, and the Postal Service of Montenegro participated in a joint meeting in Podgorica to discuss training materials for prosecutors, specifically those related to illicit trafficking in firearms via postal parcels.

3.9 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?

- Continuation of training for judicial and prosecutorial authorities on the alignment of criminal legislation with the UN Protocol.
- Recognizing the need for continuous training, we believe that introducing an online training model, alongside updating the database on weapons and their parts, would significantly benefit the border police and enhance their efficiency.
- Facilitating the exchange of best practices and new forms of arms smuggling between contact points could improve the work of both border police and customs in preventing and detecting illegal arms trafficking. The “learn anywhere, anytime” model is particularly suitable for border police officers, as it allows them to participate in training courses from any border crossing. Online training also promotes the sharing of practical examples across different locations.
- Under Project Justitia, support has been requested for the development of a guide to support prosecutorial authorities in conducting firearms-related investigations, as well as a case law compendium to support judicial authorities.

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?

- Yes, there is an information exchange system in place between the police and the Prosecutor’s Office, and the Prosecutor’s Office and courts regarding FAE-related cases prosecuted and adjudicated.
- The Case Management Information System (SMIL) connects the Police with the Prosecutor’s Office, while the Prosecutor’s Office is also linked to the courts through the same system. The SMIL database now supports statistical reporting, however it currently cannot generate data tailored to the specific requirements of the Roadmap.
- The Police uses a system that allows case monitoring to track when cases have been forwarded to the Prosecutor’s 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 cases of arms export diversion** have been reported, as Kosovo does not engage in 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?*

- The Directorate for Serious Crimes initiated and investigated 14 cases of firearm trafficking, which resulted in:
 - 13 arrested suspected individuals
 - 12 Filed indictments
 - 7 Operational Plans
 - 12 Premises searches
 - 7 Additional indictments
 - 1 International cooperation case
 - Confiscated firearms and ammunition: 2 AK-47 rifles, 8 Handguns, 6 Long guns, 1,004 Ammunition (bullets), 13,371 Gas cartridges
- Some of these cases have been classified as “Unauthorized import, export, supply, transport, production, exchange, brokering or sale of weapons or explosive materials”. However, given that Kosovo does not produce firearms or ammunition, all these items have been trafficked from neighbouring jurisdictions.
- As part of the ongoing activities, continuous efforts have been made to strengthen border control. The Police implemented a total of **21 Operational Plans**, along with 5 additional joint Customs–Police plans reported to NJPIARK/QKMK and coordinated at the Border Crossing Point (BCP) level. Based on NJPIARK-QKMK recommendations—particularly regarding second-line controls—border authorities generated 143 profiles, which led to the discovery of various weapons, ammunition, and weapon parts. In total, **51 cases were successfully prevented**.
- Regarding second-line checks, border police conducted 12,334 vehicle inspections (including buses, trucks, cars, and pedestrians traffic).
- On 5–6 November 2024, 5 officials participated in the regional Border Police and Customs meeting held in Montenegro. The meeting focused on enhancing cross-border cooperation and improving knowledge exchange related to firearms detection.
- From 30 September to 4 October 2024, an evaluation visit was conducted at the Customs offices in Pristina to assess institutional activities, the legal framework, risk management procedures, and international cooperation.
- A joint meeting between Albania and Kosovo took place within the framework of the joint border project under SALW control.
- 350 police officers, including 6 women, participated in a series of trainings organised for the border police to enhance border control and surveillance of green borders.
- In September 2024, a joint training session was held for 60 officers (30 border police and 30 investigators, including 3 women), focusing on strengthening investigative capacities related to firearms trafficking. The training covered firearms tracing, intelligence gathering, and data-driven approaches for identifying and dismantling trafficking networks.
- 100 border police officers (98 men and 2 women) participated in two specialized training sessions on the identification of converted firearms and the recognition of firearm components. The sessions also included an overview of the legal framework for SALW control, and it was supported by SEESAC.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

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

- There is no separate mechanism. Every substance is verified for legality both at the borders and within the territory.

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 structural changes have occurred, apart from the organization of a joint investigation meeting held at Europol. The investigation involved the police services of Kosovo, Belgium, Albania, and Germany, and was initiated in the first half of the year, and continued in the second half.

3.6 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

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

- The Border Management Coordination Centre / Risk Analysis Unit gather data for internal purposes and for the needs of law enforcement authorities. The data is shared upon request and contributes to relevant reports for international agencies.

3.7 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 FFP participated in operational cooperation activities under Operation JAD SEE 2024.
- As part of ongoing operational cooperation with Europol – initiated in the first half of 2024 and continuing into the second – a direct operational activity was carried out. This included several operational meetings and support for joint investigations, particularly within the framework of Operation VERUS.

3.8 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?

- Insights from the report on the “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Guns” campaign, as well as discussions within the SALW Commission, have highlighted ongoing concerns regarding the misclassification of criminal offenses and the issuance of lenient sentences for firearms-related crimes. While there has been a modest increase in awareness among officials within prosecutorial institutions, it remains insufficient.
- The e-learning platform is in its final development phase and is expected to be completed in the first half of 2025. The platform will cover a wide range of topics, including: illicit arms trafficking; threats related to SALW and ammunition; community policing approaches; intelligence-led policing (ILP); legal frameworks on

SALW (both domestic and international); the role of the FFP; methods for identifying and conducting ballistic examinations of converted firearms; and identifying and managing risks related to explosives, including improvised explosive devices (IEDs), among others.

- Regarding criminal prosecution, investigators from the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized and Serious Crimes maintain close collaboration with the Prosecutor’s Office and demonstrate strong operational cooperation. However, there is currently no available information on initiatives specifically aimed at addressing the issue of lenient sentencing practices.
- A dedicated working group is revising the Criminal Code with the objective of increasing the severity of penalties for SALW-related offenses and introducing additional sanctions for perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence.
- On 21 November 2024, 24 law enforcement officials participated in a local meeting to support the development of the Firearms Case Law Collection, organised by UNODC in Pristina.
- On 12–13 September 2024, 10 judges participated in a training entitled “Firearms in the Courtroom” aimed at strengthening their understanding of firearms-related offenses as defined in Chapter XXIX of the Criminal Code. The training was organised by the Justice Academy in Pristina and UNODC.

3.9 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?

- There is a need for advanced trainings for investigators handling cases involving firearms.

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?

- **SIPA:** During the reporting period, a report on criminal offenses related to the unauthorized trade and possession of firearms was submitted in accordance with the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina and relevant entity legislation.
- **Border police BiH:** The Electronic System for Data Exchange between Police Bodies and Prosecutor’s Offices in BiH (ESRP) is in use.
- **Republika Srpska Mol:** The Agreement on the Establishment of a System for Electronic Exchange of Data from the Records of Police Bodies and Prosecutors’ Offices, dated 30 September 30, 2010, provides for the electronic exchange of information from selected official records. Specifically, it includes the exchange of data from the Records of Adopted Orders for Conducting Investigations maintained by the Prosecutors’ Offices.
- **Federal Mol Affairs, Brčko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported that they do not have a unified information exchange system in place between police, prosecutor’s office and courts.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton**

Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior provided no 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?*

- **Federal level (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations; Indirect Taxation Authority; Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):** No cases of diversions were reported. Annual reports are published in cooperation with SESSAC, after informing the Parliament.

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?*

- **Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA):**
 - ITA regularly oversees and controls the movement of goods at border crossing points and customs offices, with particular attention to items subject to prohibitions and restrictions, including goods regulated by permit regimes – such as SALW. During the reporting period, the ITA temporarily seized goods in one case: one air rifle (“Marksman”), an ammunition clip, and a Glock pistol case, along with 13 rounds of 9mm ammunition.
 - Phase II of the regional project HERMES began in early 2024. In this context, and in line with the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Working Group between the ITA and Public Postal Operators of BiH, two meetings were held: on 12 July 2024 in Doboј and on 2 September 2024 in Mostar.
 - In line with the Strategy for the Control of SALW in BiH and the Roadmap, UNDP BiH initiated the “Improving the Capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies in the Field of SALW – LEAD” project. As part of its implementation, UNDP organised joint international exercises between police and customs authorities of BiH and Montenegro. The first exercise was conducted from 1-3 October 2024 in Čitluk (theoretical part) and at the Bijača border crossing (practical part). The second exercise was held in Montenegro from 26-28 November 2024.
 - At the initiative of the ITA, a meeting was held on July 11, 2024, in Zenica with representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH within the framework of the LEAD project. The meeting addressed the application of criminal procedure rules, particularly those concerning searches of vehicles, persons, and their movable property. The discussion followed approval by the ITA Director to develop SOPs for organisational units tasked with preventing smuggling and addressing misdemeanors.
 - Upon SEESAC’s invitation, two officers from the Regulatory Enforcement Sector participated in a regional meeting of border police and customs representatives on November 5–6, 2024. The meeting aimed to provide a platform for information sharing and knowledge exchange among border services in Southeast Europe and key international institutions, focusing on emerging threats and trends in illicit arms trafficking.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

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

- **Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board):** No.

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?

- **Federal MoI:** All available capacities are used.
- **SIPA, Tuzla Canton MoI, Zenica-Doboj Canton MoI, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI, and Canton 10 MoI** reported no use of the supporting tools offered by EMPACT and EUROPOL.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Brčko District Police, Una-Sana Canton 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, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior, and Hercegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

3.6 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

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

- No information was provided.

3.7 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?

- **Border Police BiH:** During the reporting period, the Border Police of BiH conducted the following operational activities:
 - The "Handbook on Firearms for the Border Guard/Police and Customs" – land border edition for the Western Balkans – was prepared during the reporting period in cooperation with Frontex.
 - The OSCE SALW Project, in cooperation with Frontex, organised the regional certified training for service dog guides, Module 2: "Obedience", which was attended by one representative of the Border Police of BiH in Skopje, North Macedonia.
 - As part of SALW projects organised by the OSCE Mission, a regional workshop on "Strengthening the Capacity of K9 Units" was held in Durrës, Albania, with the aim of supporting Albania's authorities in reducing the risk of SALW proliferation. One representative of the BiH Border Police attended.
 - A meeting on the strategic improvement of the capabilities of police dog units in preventing and detecting illegal and smuggled SALW in Southeast Europe was held in Vienna, Austria, with the participation of one representative of the BiH Border Police.
 - The OSCE Mission to BiH organised a study visit to France as part of the SALW project for K9 experts from BiH. The visit aimed to familiarize BiH experts with working methods, training techniques, and the use of K9 units in France. One representative of the BiH Border Police participated.
 - Specialist equipment for service dogs and their handlers was donated to the Border Police of BiH as part of the project "Providing Support to BiH in Mitigating Security Risks Related to the Illegal Possession, Abuse, and Trafficking of SALW and Ammunition", which includes activities to strengthen K9 capacities supported by the OSCE Mission.
- On 21-26 October 2024, the Border Police of BiH participated in the regional operation SEE JAD 2024 organised by Europol within the EMPACT framework. **SIPA:** The exchange of criminal intelligence in the framework of suppressing criminal offenses related to firearms, as well as the submission of reports on the analysis of data from encrypted applications, is regularly carried out.

- **Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA):**
 - On 19-20 November 2024, the 21st Regional Meeting of the Southeast Europe Firearms Experts Network (SEEFEN) was held in Jahorina–Sarajevo. An officer from the ITA, as a SEEFEN network member, participated in the meeting as part of the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Control of SALW in BiH (2021–2024).
 - On 22-26 July 2024, a meeting was held in Podgorica, Montenegro, to assess the capacity of customs services in the Western Balkans to combat the illegal trade in firearms. The meeting was conducted by UNDP SEESAC and attended by an officer from the Regulatory Enforcement Sector.
 - On 21-26 October 2024, the ITA participated in a joint operational action codenamed SEE JAD 2024, planned and coordinated under EMPACT. The action targeted firearms, narcotics trafficking, and illegal immigration.
- **Federal Mol:** The exchange of information with international police agencies is carried out regularly.
- **Una-Sana Canton Mol:** Yes, through operational checks of queries by FRONTEX, Europol, and EU Member States.
- **Brčko District Police:** Yes, criminal intelligence data was exchanged.
- **Republika Srpska Mol and Zenica-Doboj Canton** reported implementation of operational cooperation through participation in SEE JAD 2024.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported no operational cooperation during the reporting period.
- **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.

3.8 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?

- **Federal level:** On July 5 and 9, 2024, representatives of the judiciary and prosecutors' offices from BiH participated in regional trainings organised by UNODC in Skopje. The trainings were based on the *Guidelines for the Investigation and Prosecution of Criminal Offenses Related to Firearms* and the *Commentary on Criminal Offenses of Unauthorized Production, Trafficking, and Possession of Firearms*. These activities support the strengthening of institutional capacities of prosecutors' offices and courts, particularly in enhancing the understanding and application of special investigative measures, cross-sectoral cooperation, and more effective prosecution of cases related to weapons and explosives.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol:** These issues have been addressed through consultative meetings with the Prosecutor's Office, during which they are thoroughly discussed and jointly reviewed with the aim of achieving improvements.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported no activities in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms.
- **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, Brčko District Police, and Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

3.9 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?

- **Republika Srpska Mol:** A comparative microscope for ballistic expertise was identified as a need in the previous reporting period. The request has been submitted and the handover process is underway with support from SEESAC. The equipment will significantly support the accreditation of ballistic expertise.
- Other entities identified no challenges or needs for support during the reporting period.

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.**
- The Mol publishes an annual report each year, summarizing its work and activities from the previous year. The Annual Report for 2024 has been published and is available on the Ministry's official website. During the reporting period, nine ammunition export operations were conducted. There is no weapons production in North Macedonia.

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?*

- We have **not received information about diversion of arms exports.**
- Yes, North Macedonia **published the annual report on 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?*

- During the reporting period, the Mol detected **117 criminal offenses related to firearms trafficking.** As a result, the following items were seized: **200 firearms, 4 hand grenades, 7,609 pieces of ammunition, 48,763 firecrackers, 361 pyrotechnic rockets,** 10 pieces of cannonballs, 4 shock bombs, 5 grams of gunpowder, 6 igniters, 9 pieces and 6 jars of bullets, 151 casings, 5 projectiles/missiles, and 287 weapon parts and components.
- On 19-20 November 2024, four officials from the Customs Administration, Criminal Police, Border Police and Department of Forensic Sciences participated in the 21st SEEFEN meeting in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- On 5-6 November 2024, five participants from North Macedonia participated in the Regional Meeting of the Border Police and Customs Representatives in Montenegro, organised by SEESAC.
- On 14-18 October 2024, UNDP conducted a needs assessment of the Customs Administration of North Macedonia to assess the capacities in combating illicit firearms trafficking. The visit included site inspections

at key locations, such as the International Airport Skopje Customs Office, ports of entry with Greece, Bulgaria, and Kosovo.

- Since 19 April 2023, FRONTEX personnel has been deployed at Border Crossings in Tabanovce and Bogorodica, as well as along the southern green border. This joint operation has significantly enhanced the operational capacity of the border police to detect illicit trafficking SALW.

3.4 Control of explosive precursors

Guiding question:

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

- A control mechanism for 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?

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

3.6 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

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

- Yes, the Department for International Police Cooperation actively collects data for the Global Study on Illicit Trade in Firearms. Information exchange is conducted primarily through the distribution of INTERPOL's Purple Notices, reports from the General Secretariat, and the quarterly EUROPOL Bulletin.

3.7 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, the Ministry maintained active operational cooperation with EUROPOL and INTERPOL, both with EU member states and other countries. A total of 24 cases were initiated with INTERPOL, including 17 cases related to firearms searches and 7 cases concerning operational information and checks on individuals involved in firearms and ammunition trafficking.
- 2 cases for operational exchange of information were initiated with Europol.

3.8 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.

3.9 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 were reported during the reporting period.

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 justice data exchange. This system has been set up to enable the Police, Prosecution Office, and Courts to access and enter data on criminal cases, including those related to the use of firearms. Currently, the system is being used and updated with Police data only, excluding data from the Prosecution Office and Courts. The system has been also designed to produce analytical reports of criminal justice data. However, institutional exchange of information remains paper-based to date.
 - In 2024, a notable development was the establishment of a joint investigation team in June between the Tirana and Pristina's Special Prosecutor's Offices. The joint investigation team revealed involvement of individuals from both Albania and Kosovo individuals in trafficking and illegal possession of firearms and military-grade ammunition.

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.
- SEESAC supported the publication of the annual report currently being prepared by the Export Control Authority (AKSHE). AKSHE conducts risk assessments for each transfer. In accordance with Article 12 of Law No. 46/2018, a risk analysis is carried out before any decision is made regarding licence issuance. Additionally, AKSHE performs post-delivery verifications. All entities holding a licence issued by AKSHE are legally obliged to submit a Delivery Verification Certificate (DVC) and to declare the origin of export. In practice, all licences issued and executed by AKSHE include a DVC.
- No report was published in the reporting period. Two arms export reports were published in 2023 covering the years 2020 and 2021. The 2020 Regional Report on Arms Exports, which covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia was published in February 2023, while the 2021 Regional Report on Arms Exports, which includes data provided through the questionnaires that were sent to the authorities in Albania, was published in December 2023.

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?

- During the reporting period, **15 cases** were referred in relation to the criminal offense “Trafficking of Weapons and Ammunition,” as provided for in Article 278/a of the Criminal Code—100% of which were detected. In these cases, 15 perpetrators were prosecuted, 5 perpetrators were arrested, and 10 were released under investigation. During this period, 8 cases were referred from proactive investigations using special investigation methods.
- Based on further data analysis, it was concluded that, out of **7 cases where SALW, ammunition, and explosives were seized**, no cases were detected at Border Crossing Points. In cases related to the criminal offense of “Trafficking of weapons and ammunition”, weapons were seized both within the territory of Albania and at border crossing points, either upon entry or exit. In total, 15 such cases were recorded, where 16 firearms, 5 magazines, and 1,109 rounds of various calibres were seized.
- During the reporting period, the following activities have been carried out with the aim of strengthening border control:
- Following the needs assessment, SEESAC provided comprehensive support to Border Police services in developing SOPs, purchasing equipment, and organizing training.
- The Department of Border and Migration received the following equipment from the UNDP aimed at enhancing enhance the investigative/detection capacities: 9 videoscopes, 12 detectors, 3 X-ray scanners, 12 Smartdec sets, 11 drones.
- The Regional Forensic Police Sector in Kukes received the following equipment from the UNDP: 4 investigation kits equipped with crime scene cameras, 4 sets of equipment for the Unit for the Investigation of Crimes, as well as 4 computers and a laptop. A metal detector was donated to the Forensic Police Institute.
- The project with OSCE is on-going as well as planned and approved activities by memorandum no. 6149/5 (Mol) and no. 51 (OSCE), dated October 5, 2021, between the Mol and the OSCE Mission to Albania.
- Other activities aimed to improve K9 unit capacities include:
 - Drafting of SOPs for K9 operations,
 - Preparation of a Master Plan for the development of K9 unit capacities, and
 - With OSCE support, the planned delivery of vehicles and equipment to the Canine Training Institute was completed, and a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme was carried out for police officers tasked with training SAMBI-specialised police dogs (multi-disciplinary dogs for detecting narcotics, money, firearms, and ammunition) at the French Gendarmerie.
- On 16-20 September 2024, SEESAC conducted an assessment visit to the Albanian Customs Administration to evaluate its capacities in combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. The visit included inspections at key locations, such as the Hani i Hotit Border Crossing Point, the "Koliposta" postal transit hub, and the Qafë Thanë Border Crossing Point.
- On 5-6 November 2024, five officials from Albania participated in the Annual Regional Meeting of the Border Police and Customs Representatives in Montenegro, organised by SEESAC. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen cross-border cooperation and knowledge sharing on firearms detection, while addressing common challenges in the region’s fight against arms trafficking.
- On 25 October 2024, the Head of the SALW Commission and other members of the SALW Commission participated in the high-level meeting on the strategic framework for enhancing K9 police dog capacities for the prevention and detection of illicit and trafficked SALW in South East Europe, organised by the OSCE.

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. The FFP participates in operations conducted by the EMPACT Platform for firearms and ammunition. Information exchange with other law enforcement structures abroad is facilitated through EUROPOL's SIENA channel.

3.6 Data collection for the Global Firearms Trafficking Study

Guiding question:

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

- Yes, the FFP collects data for completing the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire (UNODC). The reporting for this period has been conducted based on data from 2024.

3.7 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?

- During the reporting period, Albania maintained regular cooperation with FRONTEX, EUROPOL, and INTERPOL, including participation in operational meetings in the framework of joint investigations with other countries.
- The border police structures continuously cooperate with FRONTEX at the Border Crossing Points in order to prevent firearms trafficking. For example, 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 port of entry with Greece.
- Regular information is exchanged with EUROPOL regarding investigations carried out by the Police, but also with the EU Member States and the Western Balkans.
- The 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.

3.8 Prosecution and conviction of FAE-related crimes

Guiding question:

Were there any activities undertaken in improving the prosecution of and convictions related to

- No activities were undertaken to improve the prosecution and conviction of crimes related to the misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of firearms. However, data collected from the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Police, and the Ministry of Justice, show improvement to combat misuse, illegal possession and trafficking of firearms.
- **Data from the General Prosecutor's Office**
 - Regarding the criminal offense of "Trafficking in weapons and ammunition", provided for in Article 278/a of the Criminal Code, data from 2024 shows 14 criminal proceedings and 8 prosecuted individuals. Compared to 2023, the following was observed: A decrease of 33.33% of the recorded criminal offence cases, a decrease of 11.11% of prosecuted individuals, an increase from 3 to 7 (2.3 times) of criminal offence cases were taken to court for this offense, and from 3 to 10 (3.33 times) in the number of prosecuted individuals brought to trial.
 - Regarding the criminal offense "Unauthorized possession and production of weapons, explosive weapons and ammunition", provided for in Article 278 of the Criminal Code, data for 2024 shows that 298 criminal offence cases and 239 prosecuted individuals were recorded, while 177 cases of criminal offence with 221 prosecuted individuals were brought to trial. Compared to 2023, the following was observed:
 - A decrease of 11.57% of recorded cases of criminal offence,
 - A decrease of 15.51% of criminal offence cases taken to court,
 - A decrease of 8.43% in the number of recorded prosecuted individuals, and
 - A decrease of 3.91% in the number of prosecuted individuals taken to court for this criminal offence.
 - In terms of criminal policy for this offence:
 - 89.65% of the prosecutor's requests for security measures consist of requests for the security measure of “imprisonment arrest”;
 - 88.50% of requests for imprisonment sentences constituted, and only 1.50% consisted of requests for fine sentences;
 - Sentence suspension and probation was requested for only 24.29% of the prosecuted individuals.

For reference and comparison to previous reports, the following is data from the Police and the Ministry of Justice:

- **Data from the Police:**
 - In relation to the criminal offense “Illegal possession and production of weapons, explosive weapons and ammunition” provided for in Article 278 of the Criminal Code, 488 cases have been identified, of which 439 cases or 89.9% of them have been detected. In these cases, 602 individuals have been prosecuted, of which 309 individuals have been arrested.
 - In relation to the criminal offense “Trafficking in weapons and ammunition”, provided for in Article 278/a of the Criminal Code, 39 cases have been identified and detected. In these cases, 52 individuals have been prosecuted, of whom 27 citizens have been arrested and 25 citizens are being prosecuted at large.
 - In relation to the criminal offense “Trafficking in Explosive, Incendiary, Poisonous and Radioactive Substances”, provided for by Article 282 of the Criminal Code, 2 cases have been identified, which have been detected. In these cases, 6 individuals have been prosecuted, of whom 4 individuals have been arrested and 2 have been officially declared as wanted.
 - The section on other firearm-related crimes includes the following criminal offenses:
 - - 147 cases of the criminal offense “Unlicensed production and possession of hunting and sporting weapons” provided for in Article 280 of the Criminal Code, which have been detected. In these cases, 170 individuals were prosecuted, of whom 45 individuals were arrested.
 - - 63 cases of the criminal offense “Violation of rules on explosive, flammable and radioactive substances” provided for in Article 282 of the Criminal Code, of which 62 or 98% of cases were detected. In these cases, 118 individuals were prosecuted, of whom 10 individuals were arrested.
- **Data from Courts for 2024:**

- 156 cases for the criminal offense "Illegal possession and production of weapons, explosive weapons and ammunition" were tried, in which 147 individuals were found guilty, 3 were acquitted, and 6 were dismissed.
- For this criminal offense, 147 people were convicted, of which 108 were sentenced to imprisonment [42 (0-2 years), 56 (2-5 years), 10 (5-10 years), 1 (10-25 years)], 2 were fined, and 36 received other types of punishment.
- 9 cases for the criminal offense 'Trafficking in weapons and ammunition' concluded in convictions. For these offenses, 8 people were sentenced to imprisonment [5 (0-2 years), 2 (2-5 years), 1 (5-10 years)] and 1 in another way.
- In 2024, a total of 287 individuals were tried in the Courts of First Instance of General Jurisdiction for criminal offenses that include crimes and misdemeanours for offenses related to firearms. Of these, 271 individuals were convicted, 11 cases were dismissed, and 5 individuals were acquitted.
- Of the 271 convicted for these criminal offenses, 14 individuals (0.2%) were sentenced to a fine; 76 individuals (1.2%) were sentenced to imprisonment for up to 2 years; 62 individuals (1%) were sentenced to imprisonment for 2 to 5 years; 14 individuals (0.2%) were sentenced to imprisonment for 5 to 10 years; 1 person was sentenced to imprisonment for 10 to 25 years. Also, 104 individuals (1.6%) were sentenced to alternative measures.
- In total, for all criminal offenses provided for in the Criminal Code, the courts have convicted 5,633 people for crimes and 784 people for misdemeanours. Of this total, 271 people, which constitute 4.2% of those convicted in 2024, were convicted for firearms-related offenses.

3.9 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 were identified during the reporting period.

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

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?

- In October and November 2024, five round tables were organised with hunting and shooting associations in several cities across Serbia, as part of the project to promote the safe storage of weapons, targeting the civil society sector, particularly hunters and shooters. The events, organised in Niš, Kragujevac, Belgrade, Užice, and Novi Sad, brought together representatives of the Hunting Association of Serbia, JP "Srbijašume", JP "Vojvodina šume", the Shooting Association of Serbia, the Practical Shooting Association, the Flying Targets Association, the Long Range Shooting Association, and various local shooting and hunting associations. The Mol's continued cooperation with civil society is recognized as a key factor in raising awareness of the risks of negligent weapon storage and promoting responsible firearm ownership.
- During exercises on training grounds and tactical-technical assemblies, as well as during "Open Day"

events, participants and visitors were informed about the dangers of misuse and illicit distribution of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, with a special focus on the importance of keeping them secure from untrained persons and minors.

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 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?

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 of the Ministry of Interior actively participate in the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force facilitated by SEESAC. This initiative aims to increase awareness and enhance operational capacity among key stakeholders in the Western Balkans, while also contributing to the standardization of designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating awareness-raising campaigns, as well as facilitating the exchange of best practices. MoI representatives attended the 6th Meeting of the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force which took place in Belgrade in September 2024.
- In October and November 2024, IPSOS conducted interviews with representatives of the FFP and the Information and Communication Technologies Sector, as well as online discussions and focus groups involving 9 representatives from the Administrative Affairs Directorate and regional police departments responsible for issuing firearms permits. The report, containing only aggregate statistical indicators, will be made available to authorities across the region to support evidence-based policymaking.
- The MoI representatives participated in the OSCE project aimed at strengthening the capacities of the MoI and other institutions in implementing awareness-raising campaigns on SALW control. As part of this project, the following activities were conducted during the reporting period:
 - In November 2024, promotional materials were delivered to the MoI and distributed in cooperation with the Police Directorate.
 - In December 2024, a campaign video was launched on social media platforms.
- During the reporting period, 7,291 citizens were informed about the risks associated with the irresponsible possession and use of SALW. These activities took place during audits and controls of citizens regarding the storage and handling of weapons and through the Mobile Information Centre of the MoI.
- Additionally, 5,754 citizens were informed about the dangers of celebratory shooting. Preventive activities were carried out by the general jurisdictional police officers through the Mobile Information Centre, as well as during the implementation of preventive activities in the area of police administrations.
- On the International Youth Day on 12 August 2024, general jurisdiction police officers carried out preventive activities across all police departments to promote a culture of safety among young people. During these activities, officers engaged with approximately 2,900 youth in Serbia and provided 146 security tips. Nearly 60% of those reached were young men.
- The Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported a project titled "Prevention of the misuse

of weapons” through its 2024 co-financing call for media content production for radio. The project, led by “Radio Televizija Kruševac DOO” Kruševac, received funding of 1,450,000.00 dinars. It involves producing 33 media pieces, with broadcasts starting on 9 September 2024 as part of the daily news and Panorama shows on RTK. The project aims to inform citizens about the dangers of both legal and illegal weapons and what firearm owners should know. The Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported also the implementation of two additional projects in the second half of 2024.

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?

- According to the MoI records, from 1 July to 31 December 2024, **15 individuals lost their lives** in 15 cases of murder or incidents with fatal outcome **in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence**. Of these, 8 were females and 7 were males. Among the perpetrators, 8 were male and 7 were female. Of the 15 cases, **firearms were used in 3 incidents** (2 in illegal possession and 1 involving legal possession), resulting in the murder of 3 individuals (2 females and 1 male).
- In the reporting period, law enforcement authorities imposed 15,509 emergency measures for incidents related to the prevention of domestic violence. Of these, 10,881 were extended and 686 were violated (4.4% of the total number).
- In terms of raising awareness and reducing the misuse of firearms in cases of violence against women, domestic violence, or other forms of gender-based violence, the Ministry of Interior has focused on preventive activities since the implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence on 1 June 2017. These efforts enable police officers, for the first time, to carry out risk assessments within their authority and impose urgent measures. The Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (Official Gazette, Nos. 94/2016 and 10/2023 - other law) stipulates that, when assessing risk, special attention must be given to weapon possession. When domestic violence is reported, the police check whether the individual owns a weapon. If a weapon is found, they seize it, issue a certificate of temporary seizure, and initiate the process for confiscation. In cases of illegal possession, the police take measures to locate and temporarily seize the weapon, and file criminal charges in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.
- The MoI has received support for preventing violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence through the UNDP Serbia project “Reduce Risk, Increase Safety – Phase 3”.
- As part of the OSCE project aimed at strengthening the capacity of Serbia’s MoI to more effectively reduce, prevent, and counter the illicit trade and misuse of SALW, ammunition, and explosives, a meeting was held in December 2024 with OSCE representatives and the Women Police Officers Network to develop promotional materials and draft a preliminary work plan for this project.

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?

- Support from international organizations or bilateral donors in organizing seminars and training courses for relevant authorities.

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 is a low level of awareness among institutions, particularly regarding the risks of illicit trafficking conducted through express or regular mail and online platforms. Additionally, transport companies and courier services demonstrate limited awareness of the threat posed by illicit trafficking.
- Some awareness-raising activities are planned, but have not yet been implemented.

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 specific awareness-raising/outreach activities with FAE producers on risks of diversion were planned or implemented.

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?

- On 24-25 September 2024, five representatives of the MoI participated in the 6th Meeting of the RAR Task Force, held in Belgrade. The participants discussed recent plans, ongoing activities, and conclusions from previous consultations. The Montenegrin delegation presented statistical data on firearms, updates on the “Respect Life, Return Weapons” campaign, and developments related to the new Law on Weapons.
- On 23 October 2024, a follow-up meeting took place between RAR Task Force representatives, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and the PR agency Consultancy Hub to discuss further progress of the “Respect Life, Return Weapons” campaign and other preparatory activities.
- No direct activities targeting young men were conducted. Young men are disproportionately represented among both the perpetrators and victims of firearm-related incidents. They also constitute the majority of individuals who have expressed intent to own firearms for reasons related to tradition, hunting, or personal safety.

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?

- Institutional response to the widespread misuse of firearms in domestic and gender-based violence remains limited. Although the Operational Team for Combating Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women holds regular meetings, the institutional response mechanisms require further development.
- A functional database on domestic violence has been established to facilitate the exchange of reports and notifications between the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Interior. This is a comprehensive software solution enabling automated exchange of data between two key sectors – the MoI and Police Directorate on one side, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare on the other. The database includes all legally required information on the participants in reported cases of violence – potential victims, perpetrators, children, as well as on actions taken, misdemeanour and criminal charges filed, and the assessed risk level. This database is the result of a joint initiative of two programs: the Social Welfare Information System (“social card”) and the UNDP – EU gender equality project.
- On 14-15 October 2024, representatives from the media, the Prosecutor’s offices, the MoI, and the police services in Montenegro participated in a training on the ethical aspects of informing the public about GBV, with a focus on incidents involving firearms misuse. The training was held in Petrovac, Montenegro,

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 required for the implementation of activities targeting weapons producers, sellers, and licensed individuals, with the aim of raising awareness about the harmful consequences of the diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. These activities may include meetings, lectures, and training sessions.

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?

- The Ministry of Interior and the Police continued implementing the 2024 awareness campaign “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Guns!” aimed at raising public awareness about the misuse of SALW. As part of the campaign, they conducted a visit to a company engaged in the trade, training, and retail sale of firearms, which also operates a shooting range.

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 was no production of FAE in 2024, therefore awareness-raising activities did not cover this field.

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?*

- During the summer months (June to September 2024), the “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Guns!” campaign was implemented. The campaign facilitated direct communication between police officers and citizens, including restaurant owners, to raise awareness about the dangers of using firearms during celebrations. Awareness materials, including banners, were distributed in public buildings and hospitality venues.
- As part of the “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Guns!” campaign, a variety of activities were conducted to promote awareness and engage the community in creating a safer, gun-free society. These activities included:
 - Launching the campaign video spot titled “Let’s Remember the Celebration, Not the Tragedy!”
 - Installing digital screens and billboards
 - Creating a mural bearing the campaign slogan “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Guns!”
 - Holding meetings with representatives of religious communities
 - Implementing media awareness campaigns
 - Conducting social media campaigns aimed at public education
 - Publishing video spots promoting the safe use of fireworks
- In September 2024, a lecture was delivered for high school students in Prizren on “The Risks of Using Weapons from a Theoretical, Legal, and Practical Perspective, and Translating These Ideas into Practice Through the Creation of Awareness Campaign Concepts.” A total of 29 students participated in the session.
- In November 2024, a Youth Camp Workshop was organised with the participation of 25 second-year high school students from Pristina, Prizren, and Ferizaj. Trainers and representatives from the Department for Public Safety (DSB) and UNDP facilitated the workshop. The program aimed to engage students in critical thinking and developing concepts and strategies for awareness campaigns addressing violence, drug use, and the misuse of weapons and fireworks. Students were also introduced to *Stop Motion* animation techniques, equipping them with creative tools to design similar campaigns in the future with support from UNDP.
- Between October and December 2024, the Ministry of Interior and the Police, in cooperation with UNDP, successfully conducted a series of training sessions across all Regional Police Directorates. The training involved 472 police officers and members of Local Public Safety Committees (KLSPs), including 21 representatives from the Kosovo Weapons Control Boards (KKSBs). Participants received essential training on SALW control, firearm inspection, explosives handling, prevention of firearm misuse in domestic violence cases, and the importance of police-community cooperation for information exchange.
- From October 25 to December 3, 2024, additional training and informational sessions were held focusing on the identification and control of SALW. A total of 75 KLSP members participated in these sessions, supported by UNDP.
- Mol representatives participated in the 6th Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force Meeting.
- Mol representatives participated in a seminar on the planning and implementation of effective public awareness campaigns, held in the United Kingdom on September 24, 2024.

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?

- A series of awareness and educational activities took place in 2024, focusing on the prevention of gender-based violence and the misuse of firearms, particularly among youth and communities:
- The MoI joined the global 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence campaign, which included awareness-raising activities, citizen engagement, and distribution of brochures aimed at preventing gender-based violence.
- In November 2024, the Police, in cooperation with the OSCE, organised several roundtable discussions. These discussions, titled *"Increasing Awareness Against Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence, and Access to Justice,"* brought together representatives from key institutions and organizations involved in addressing domestic violence and supporting victims.
- On 4 December 2024, MoI representatives participated in a roundtable discussion titled "Fighting Violence" organised by EULEX.

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 organizing a comprehensive awareness campaign focused on the risks associated with pyrotechnic devices and fireworks.
- Support for an educational program targeting students in both lower and upper secondary schools to inform them about the consequences of firearms, pyrotechnic devices, and fireworks.
- Support to organize youth camps for high school students to raise awareness about the consequences of firearm misuse and promote responsible behaviour.

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 MoI:** 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.
- **Republika Srpska MoI:** During the reporting period, the Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior instructed all Sectors/Departments of Police in Police Directorates to implement preventive activities focused on ensuring legal compliance in the sale and trade of weapons and ammunition. These activities emphasized controlling spatial and technical conditions, the proper storage of weapons and ammunition, and the quality and accuracy of the required records.
- **Tuzla Canton MoI:** Yes, this is accomplished through the establishment of commissions and the

implementation of inspection supervision over the operations of retail facilities where weapons and ammunition are sold, as well as over agencies responsible for the protection of people and property, and hunting associations.

- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported that they conducted no activities during the reporting period.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj 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?

- **Federal level institutions, Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Tuzla Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported no awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers during the reporting period.
- **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.

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?

Awareness-raising activities conducted or planned **among the general population:**

- **Brcko District Police:** Yes, activities continued as part of the campaign "Respect life, not weapons" in cooperation with UNDP.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** Yes. Activities are undertaken 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.
- **Canton 10 Mol:** On 8 August 2025, the Mol of Canton 10 published an invitation on its official website, encouraging citizens to voluntarily surrender illegally possessed weapons and to anonymously report individuals who unlawfully possess or misuse firearms by calling 122.
- **Una-Sana Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol** reported that they conducted no such activities during the reporting period.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, 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** provided no information.

Awareness-raising activities **specifically targeting young men:**

- **Brcko District Police:** Yes, lecture to final grades of secondary schools.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** Yes, activities included educational sessions for secondary school students on the dangers of using firearms.

- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported that they conducted no related activities during the reporting period.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Una-Sana Canton 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.

Awareness-raising activities on dangers of **celebratory shooting**:

- **Republika Srpska Mol**: The 2023–2027 Plan of Measures and Activities for the Prevention of Peer Violence and Juvenile Delinquency includes a preventive campaign aimed at preventing the unauthorized sale and use of pyrotechnic devices. The campaign also seeks to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with the illegal and improper use of pyrotechnics, as well as the misuse of firearms.
- **Brcko District Police**: Yes, through the statements of the Brcko District Police.
- **Tuzla Mol**: Yes. Awareness-raising activities are conducted during the training of applicants for firearm procurement authorizations, ensuring they meet the special conditions prescribed by the Law on Arms and Ammunition. Such activities are also conducted through the “Community Policing” project, when registering private celebrations and public gatherings (such as weddings, etc.), where the use of firearms for celebratory purposes is traditionally expected.
- **Canton 10 Mol**: Between 16 January 2024 and 20 January 2025, the operational action “Mir i Dobro” (Peace and Wellbeing) was carried out. Local media were continuously involved to raise awareness about the dangers associated with the use of firearms, ammunition, explosives, bombs, explosive devices, and particularly improvised amateur-made devices. Additionally, principals of primary and secondary schools actively warned students about the risks related to the use of weapons and pyrotechnic devices. reported no activities on the dangers of celebratory shootings during the reporting period.
- **Zenica-Doboj Mol and Central Bosnia Canton Mol** reported that they conducted no related activities during the reporting period.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** reported no 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?

- **Federal level (Ministry of Security/SALW Coordination Board)**: During the second half of 2024, competent agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued efforts to raise awareness about the misuse of firearms, particularly in the context of gender-based violence, with support from SEESAC:
 - From July 1 to 2, 2024, representatives from the media, prosecutors’ offices, interior ministries, and police agencies participated in a training on ethical reporting of GBV cases involving firearms.
 - On September 24–25, 2024, BiH representatives participated in the 6th meeting of the Regional Awareness Raising Task Force (RAR Task Force) to strengthen crisis communication capacities.
 - In the last quarter of 2024, two key publications were published, developed with contributions from BiH and other Western Balkan jurisdictions:
 1. Guidelines for Officers of Ministries of Interior and Police on Media Communication in Cases of Firearms Abuse within the Context of GBV.
 2. Analysis of Media Reporting on Firearms Abuse in Cases of Male Violence against Women.

- **Brcko District Police:**
 - Lectures were organised on the topics of domestic violence, the abuse of firearms against women, and the broader issue of domestic violence.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:**
 - Yes, activities are carried out by police officers in charge of "Community policing", focusing on families with "broken family relations".
 - Cooperation was established with the women's association "Vive žene" in Tuzla, aimed at conducting joint activities to address domestic violence.
- **Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol:** Addressing this phenomenon remains a priority through ongoing activities, including public education, raising awareness of relevant legislation, and actively managing cases in collaboration with all competent institutions.
- **Una-Sana Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported that they conducted no activities.
- **Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, Federal Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, and Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no 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 challenges or needs for support were reported.

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?

- The Mol regularly communicates with legal entities involved in firearms-related activities, as well as with private companies providing personal and technical security services.

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, only ammunition. The Mol holds regular meetings with ammunition manufacturer to inform them about the existing risks related to the diversion of ammunition.

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

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?

- During the first half of 2024, most regional sectors of internal affairs in North Macedonia implemented measures and activities aimed at increasing awareness and combating the illicit possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW.
- Two preventive campaigns were carried out: *Celebrate with Heart – Not with Guns* and *Say NO to Firecrackers – Safety First*. These campaigns used the same promotional materials as in previous years.
- The campaign *Celebrate with Heart – Not with Guns* included the following activities:
 - Throughout the year, particularly during the summer, meetings were held with citizens to inform them of the consequences of unauthorized shooting with firearms at family celebrations and other gatherings. Educational leaflets with the slogan “Celebrate with Heart, Not with Guns” were distributed during these meetings.
- Several activities were organised to prevent the misuse of firearms and pyrotechnics, as well as the unauthorized trade and use of pyrotechnics, including:
 - The campaign “Stop the use of pyrotechnics”.
 - A number of educational workshops and demonstrations on prevention and protection from the misuse of pyrotechnics, including:
 - Educational workshops in cooperation with the Red Cross;
 - Educational workshops in collaboration with the Clinic for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery;
 - A demonstration event conducted jointly with the Red Cross;
 - Meetings held with responsible individuals from pyrotechnics retail stores.
 - Preventive Activities by Regional Centers for Border Affairs (RCBA)
- The following activities were also carried out:
 - 26 preventive activities with hunting associations on the topic “Preventing Poaching”;
 - 12 preventive activities with hunting associations on the topic “Preventing Poaching”;
 - 2 preventive activities with hunting associations on the topic “Preventing Poaching”;
 - 12 preventive activities on the topic “Protection from Pyrotechnics”;
 - 2 preventive activities on the topics “Prevention of Peer Violence and Illicit Drug Trafficking in Schools” and “Protection from Pyrotechnic Devices”.
- On 24–25 September 2024, MoI representatives participated in the 6th Regional Meeting of the Awareness Raising Working Group, organised by SEESAC. The meeting served as a platform for sharing experiences from recent awareness-raising initiatives, discussing challenges, and presenting upcoming activities and projects.

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?

- On 15-16 July 2024, representatives from the media, the prosecutor’s offices, the MoI, and the police services in North Macedonia participated in a training on the ethical aspects of informing the public about GBV, with a focus on

incidents involving firearms misuse. The training was held in Skopje.

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?

- The following needs for support were identified:
 - Implementing awareness-raising campaigns against the misuse of firearms and the unauthorized use of pyrotechnics.
 - Conducting an awareness-raising campaign on weapons deactivation.

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 activities were reported targeting licensed private and legal entities.

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 were no awareness raising/outreach activities with FAE producers about risks of diversion, conducted or planned during the reporting period.

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?

- During the reporting period, the Public Relations Department and the Community Policing Sector launched awareness-raising campaigns on SALW, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Albania. Based on the Awareness-Raising and Communication Strategy, ongoing consultations were held throughout 2024 with the responsible working group to prepare the terms of reference and define the modalities for

implementing the campaigns outlined in the strategy's work plan.

- During the reporting period, as part of the SALW project, two awareness-raising campaigns aimed at increasing public understanding and changing attitudes about the risks associated with SALW were successfully finalized. These campaigns focused on combating gender-based violence involving firearms and engaging youth in promoting a culture of peace and security.
- Prior to the launch of the campaigns, research was conducted to identify cities with the highest prevalence of illegal weapons relative to population size. Research results included the following cities: Lezha, Shkodra, Vlora, Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, and Fier. The campaign, launched to run from May through December 2024, was delivered under the message: “Show courage by saying no to firearms”. It featured a comprehensive digital outreach effort, including the promotion of a campaign video, social media content, and a campaign song titled “Lay Down the Weapons” by the artist Big Basta. These efforts reached an estimated 3,489,034 citizens through television, radio, and digital platforms.
- As part of the campaign, two MoUs were signed among the OSCE, the Mol, four civil society organizations, and the Municipality of Elbasan, facilitating joint field activities with youth. Additionally, mayors of Elbasan, Shkodra, and Lezha met the head of the OSCE Mission to discuss SALW issues and coordinating on further youth-focused awareness activities. The SALW Project, with the continued support of the Mol and the Police, in coordination with the Local Safety Councils of the respective municipalities and in cooperation with four civil society organizations, carried out awareness-raising activities focused on youth and gender-based violence in Tirana, Shkodër, Lezhë, and Elbasan. Approximately 700 young people participated in these activities between September and December 2024:
 - On 20 September 2024, 90 students from “Ismail Qemali” High School participated in the 1st event, organised in collaboration with the Gender Alliance Development Center at the “COD” Centre in the Prime Minister’s Office in Tirana.
 - On 15 October 2024, 30 students from local schools participated in the 2nd event, organised in cooperation with the Women’s Centre for Development and Culture at Hotel “Skampa” in Elbasan.
 - On 20 November 2024, 150 students participated in the 3rd event, which was organised in Elbasan in cooperation with the same organization.
 - On 21 November 2024, 200 students participated in the 4th event, organised in cooperation with Terre des Hommes at “Republika” Cinema in Shkodra.
 - On 26 November 2024, 200 students participated in the 5th, organised in cooperation with Terre des Hommes at the Palace of Culture in Lezha.
 - On 13 December 2024, 20 selected university students participated in the 6th and final event, organised in cooperation with the Youth Congress at n’Zon Creative Industries in Tirana.
- Six video testimonials under the title “Unheard Voices” were produced and published on social media during November and December 2024. These were conceptualized and recorded by youth in collaboration with civil society organizations in Shkodra and Elbasan. Presence in the cities was achieved through the “Armed Violence Memorial Walls” installations, designed by young people using art and real-life experiences, delivering strong messages of peace. They were placed in prominent city areas of Shkodra and Elbasan with the support of the respective Local Safety Councils. To conclude the campaign, an artistic mural on domestic violence was painted in downtown Tirana. The mural depicts the consequences of such violence on youth and the broader community, conveying a message of peace and shared future.
- A dedicated section titled “Të guximshëm pa armë” (“Courageous Without Weapons”) has been launched on the official website of the Police. This section includes information about the legal consequences of possessing and misusing firearms and provides updates on the awareness campaign. Link: <https://asp.gov.al/te-guximshem-pa-arme/>
- The media were periodically informed about firearm-related incidents and prevention efforts. Senior representatives of the Directorate for Public Relations and Media participated in interviews and talk shows to raise awareness about firearm misuse.
- To evaluate the campaign’s impact and ensure its sustainability, a final survey was conducted. The results

showed that: 77.27% of respondents (59.78% men and 57.55% women) felt more informed about the dangers of firearm misuse; 43.43% reported feeling safer after the campaign; 79.8% strongly supported continued educational initiatives addressing firearm dangers for women and girls; 60.10% had frequently encountered campaign messages in the media. An interview about the campaign's effects was broadcast on Radio Television of Albania. The results of this survey will serve as a foundation for the design and implementation of future awareness-raising campaigns on SALW.

- Activities conducted under the UNDP Awareness Campaign “Strengthening Control, Administration and Social Attitudes Towards SALW” included awareness-raising meetings in 24 high schools across Albania identified by the Police. These meetings were organised throughout 2024 in educational institutions, including in the “Safety Corners”. They were organised in collaboration with the General Directorate of Police, local police directorates, and school security officers, including heads of community policing and local public safety officials. The meetings were conducted under the campaign motto: Shkrep ide, jo armë” (“Fire ideas, not guns”).
- Public awareness-raising messages focused on:
 - The potential risks of firearms misuse to people's lives, the dangers of domestic violence involving firearms, and the risk of committing serious crimes.
 - Calling on the community to strengthen cooperation with the police and assist the police with information about citizens who may possess illegal weapons.
 - Harsh punishments, in accordance with the Criminal Code, and social consequences for individuals, especially young people, in their future personal careers, as well as in their social and economic life.
 - Elements of the future firearms amnesty and the population's preparedness to respond positively to this commitment.
- On 24-25 September 2024, representatives from the Awareness-Raising Task Force of the MoI and the Police participated in the 6th meeting of the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force, held in Serbia. They shared the initiatives and campaigns undertaken during the respective period regarding awareness-raising among various groups on the misuse of SALW. The Task Force has contributed and has been involved in the implementation of the Awareness-Raising and Communication Strategy on SALW.
- During the reporting period, no specific awareness-raising activities have been implemented or planned on the dangers of celebratory shootings in Albania.

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?

- No specific activities were conducted.

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 challenges or needs for support were reported.

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.
Progress 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.

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?

- During the reporting period, legal weapon owners **surrendered 10,574 weapons**.
- **6,056 weapons were re-registered** in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition. 4,205 individuals re-registered 5,422 weapons, while 19 legal entities re-registered 634 weapons, all of which had previously been owned in accordance with the previous version of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.
- During the reporting period, authorities confiscated **7,203 firearms from legal gun owners, while 510 firearms, 19,110 rounds of ammunition of various calibres, 36 bombs and explosive devices, 5.36 kilograms of explosives, and two handheld rocket launchers were seized from individuals in illegal possession.**
- The owner of a registered weapon may, at any moment, surrender weapons to the competent authority of the Ministry of Interior according to his/her place of residence, and transfer the ownership to the government, 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. Control of firearms possession is a routine activity conducted by representatives of the MoI. When they find weapons in illegal possession, criminal charges are filed against the owners in accordance with Article 348 of the Criminal Code, which stipulates sanctions for the illegal possession and carrying of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

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, **538 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?

- Cooperation with international organizations and bilateral donors is necessary to encourage the surrender of more weapons during future legalization efforts.

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?

- As part of the “Respect Life, Return Weapons” campaign, citizens of Montenegro **voluntarily surrendered 130 weapons, 6 hand grenades, 2,009 rounds of ammunition, and 8 kg of explosives.**

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

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

- Deactivation of weapons is not completely regulated.
- However, deactivation was used as a method for reducing firearms ownership, although only a small number of citizens have made use of this legal possibility. During the reporting period, **33 firearms were deactivated, including 5 short and 28 long firearms.**

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 were reported.

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 was conducted** during the reporting 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 and Voluntary Surrender of Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives enables the legalization of firearms for deactivation purposes. Deactivation is also regulated by Law on Weapons. In addition, a guideline on deactivation has also been drafted.
- Six officials participated in a training on firearms deactivation process in France.
- Nine officials participated in a training on firearms deactivation in Pristina, delivered by the deactivation house BNE. Participants included five officials from the Forensic Agency's Ballistics Department, one official from the MoI, and three representatives of licensed legal entities.
- Three officials have been certified for firearms deactivation, while two officials have been certified as firearms deactivation inspectors.

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?

- Support for drafting the new law on legalization and voluntary surrender of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
- We have received some support related to weapon deactivation (see above). However, we have requested and received a commitment of support by the OSCE for the necessary deactivation equipment, which is expected by September 2025 at the latest.

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?

- **Republika Srpska Mol:**
 - The Law on Arms and Ammunition provides for a permanent amnesty, allowing for the voluntary surrender of weapons, ammunition, mines, explosive devices, and other such items whose acquisition, possession, and carrying are prohibited by law. Under this provision, individuals who voluntarily surrender such items are not held liable for illegal possession.
- Activities were conducted as part of the campaign “Respect life, not guns” in cooperation with UNDP.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** No legalization or voluntary surrender campaigns were conducted during the reporting period. However, the Law on Arms and Ammunition permits both natural and legal persons to voluntarily surrender firearms and ammunition in illegal possession without facing legal consequences – provided that no legal proceedings have been initiated in relation to the surrendered weapons.
- **Sarajevo Canton Mol:** The campaign “Respect Life, Not Weapons” was completed. During the reporting period 15 weapons were voluntarily surrendered.
- **Brcko District Police, Una-Sana Canton Mol, Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Mol, and Canton 10 Mol** reported that they did not conduct any such activities during the reporting period.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

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

- **Republika Srpska Mol:** In Republika Srpska, the deactivation of weapons is used for registering inherited weapons, which are registered as personal or family commemorations in official records.
- **Federal Mol:** The Federal Police Administration regularly destroys confiscated weapons in accordance with identified needs and based on orders issued by the competent courts and prosecutors' offices. These destruction activities are primarily carried out in coordination with representatives of the SALW Coordination Body and the UNDP.
- **Brcko District Police:** Yes, 12 legally registered firearms were deactivated and converted into commemorative weapons.
- **Canton 10 Mol:** One firearm was permanently deactivated during the reporting period. The certificate of permanent deactivation was issued by the company ARMY SHOP d.o.o. from Banja Luka, which also conducted the deactivation.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** Deactivation was not used as a method to reduce illegal firearms possession during the reporting period. However, the arrangement of the Center for Verification of Deactivated Weapons located at the headquarters of the Police Directorate of the Mol of Tuzla Canton in Tuzla has been completed with support from OSCE. Firearms deactivation will be conducted in accordance with the Law on Weapons and Ammunition (Official Gazette of Tuzla Canton, No. 3/25).
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Zenica-Doboj Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no 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 were reported.

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 is currently **no legal provision** in North Macedonia for the legalization or voluntary surrender of illegally owned firearms. According to the Law on Weapons, citizens may voluntarily surrender **legally owned firearms** to the MoI for reasons such as old age, death, or other personal circumstances.
- During the reporting period, the Police Units within the Internal Affairs Departments (SVRs) of the MoI submitted data on voluntary surrender of firearms. Some of the weapons were surrendered due to the death of the owner, while the rest were surrendered on other grounds. In total, **282 firearms and 1,381 rounds of ammunition 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?

- Since 2018, approximately 120 requests for firearm deactivation have been submitted. The firearms have been deactivated, however, the confirmation by the MoI's Commission to ensure that each deactivation has been conducted in accordance with the Law on Weapons and the applicable Rules of Procedure remains pending. Following confirmation, each weapon must be marked and a deactivation certificate issued.
- The MoI is currently in the process of preparing Guidelines for the Verification, Marking, Registration, and Issuance of Certificates for Deactivated Weapons, in coordination with and with technical support from the OSCE.

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:
 - Conducting a campaign for the voluntary surrender and legalization of firearms once the Law on Amending the Law on Weapons enters into force.
 - Conducting a campaign on raising public awareness of the importance and procedure for weapons deactivation.
 - Developing instructions for the registration process of deactivated weapons.
 - Reconstructing and adapting a designated room within the MoI to house the firearms marking machine received from the UNDP, enabling the marking process, and issuing deactivation certificates.
 - Training for members of the Commission responsible for the verification and deactivation of

weapons, officials at the Weapons Department who oversee legal entities performing deactivation, as well as representatives of the authorized legal entities.

- The request for adapting a designated room within the MoI has been approved by the OSCE. Support for trainings was requested from the OSCE.

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?

- Albania does not have legislation in place that provides for the voluntary surrender of firearms without being subject to criminal liability.

5.2 Deactivation of firearms

Guiding question:

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

- There has been no process of firearms deactivation during the reporting period.
- Work is underway to develop an electronic training module (“e-learning”) based on the finalized Training Manual on the Deactivation of SALW. Subsequently, the module will be incorporated into the curricula of the Security Academy and the continuous training programs of the Albanian Police for employees performing administrative or technical deactivation functions. This activity is part of the project “Assisting the Authorities of Albania to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW),” implemented by the OSCE with financial support from the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Republic of France.
- The Police is preparing the necessary infrastructure for firearms deactivation processes, with support from the OSCE. The Police is in the process of establishing the Deactivation Centre and setting up a surveillance system. The equipment for the Deactivation Centre has already been provided, and construction work on its infrastructure is ongoing.

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 were reported.

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.
Progress 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

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?*

- The MoI **did not conduct any destruction of firearms and ammunition** during the reporting period.
- The MoD did not destroy any surplus stocks of firearms and ammunition in 2024.
- The MoI has established the PEN system application to ensure more efficient and timely collection and classification of weapons and ammunition that have become the property of Serbia. The system monitors the movement of weapons and ammunition during delivery, collection, classification, storage, and disposal, depending on their designated purpose. The PEN application is connected and synchronized with the Ministry's service weapon application (NAO) and the application for legally possessed weapons (OLP).

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?

- Further financial support from international or bilateral partners for destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition.

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?*

- **During the reporting period, authorities of Montenegro reduced surplus of ammunition and unexploded explosive ordnance by 499.54 tonnes.** Of this, 471.81 tonnes were disposed through sale under previously concluded contracts and 27.73 tonnes were donated to partners. No destruction of surplus ammunition took place in the second half of 2024.
- **16.5 tonnes of unexploded ordnance were destroyed** at the facilities of “Poliex” in Berane, which is licensed for the production, repair, and foreign trade of weapons and military equipment.
- The only remaining active programme is that of the organization ITF, which has the capacity to increase the volume of surplus ordnance designated for destruction, and ensure safe storage of the Army's arms and military equipment, in accordance with the available financial resources.
- In the second half of 2024, **authorities confiscated a total of 536 weapons.**
- No destruction of confiscated or voluntarily surrendered firearms or ammunition took place during the reporting period.

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?

- Further financial support to ensure destruction of SALW that have been confiscated by final judgments, as well as those collected through the “Respect life, return weapons” campaign.

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?*

- There is no surplus stockpile of FAE, therefore no destruction has taken place during the reporting period.
- On 12 September 2025, **993 firearms** of various models and calibres were **destroyed** following the court order. The destruction process took place at a metal smelting facility, where the firing mechanisms were first dismantled before the weapons were melted down. The resulting material was repurposed to manufacture covers for manholes. This activity was public and received support by UNDP.

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?

- Specialized destruction equipment is required to ensure safe destruction of the remaining 1,974 rounds of ammunition, including calibers such as 12.7x99 mm and 7.62x39 mm armor-piercing. This quantity remains pending destruction since May 2024.
- A formal request was submitted for support for establishing a registration system for disposed weapons. We received commitment for support.

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?

- **Federal level (MoD): No weapons were destroyed** by the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of **93.1 tonnes of mines and explosives were destroyed** through detonation and incineration. On December 2024, **3,919 SALW and their components were destroyed** by melting at the Ilijaš ironworks on 7 December 2024 across all cantons with support from UNDP/SEESAC.
- As part of the preparatory phase, representatives of the Coordination Committee and UNDP in BiH conducted verification visits to **14 law enforcement agencies**, including the SIPA, the Border Police of BiH, and 8 out of 10 cantonal Mols (excluding the Mols of Central Bosnia Canton and Posavina Canton).
- Team A of the Federal Civil Protection Administration continued to regularly collect voluntarily surrendered and discovered mines and explosive devices, conducting their destruction at an approved site on Mount Golija, near the Koričina pass along the Livno-Glamoč route. When necessary, destruction has also been conducted at the “Barbara” military training ground.
- The **Federal Civil Protection Administration** also destroyed 3,108 rounds of ammunition seized by the Border Police of BiH and the Mol of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton.
- **SIPA:** Destruction of the following surplus stockpile was carried out by the competent authorities in BiH with support from UNDP:
 - 1 rifle “MOD 98”, caliber 7.9x57 mm
 - 1 pistol “BRNO-CZ”, model 5, caliber 6.35 mm
 - 1 pistol “EKOL”, model Firat PA 92 Magnum
 - 2 gun magazines

Destruction of the military-grade weapons and explosive devices in cooperation with the MoD of BiH and the RS Civil Protection:

- 1 manual rocket launcher M80 “Zolja”, caliber 64 mm
- 91 anti-personnel landmines PMA-1
- 80 anti-personnel mine fuses UPMAH-1
- 32 rifle-mounted grenades M60
- 10 rifle-mounted grenades M94
- Hand grenades:
 - 19 M75
 - 20 M93
 - 28 WG 42
 - 18 hand grenade MIV PB100
 - 20 anti-armor hand grenade HOSSAM-1

- 81 ammunition of various calibers
- 5 kg TNT explosive
- 6 kg gunpowder
- 50 meters slow-burning fuse
- 150 meters detonating cord
- As part of this initiative, in 2024, the **Mol of Canton 10** handed over a significant quantity of explosive ordnance to Team A, including:
 - 12 hand grenades
 - 2 aerial bombs
 - 4 rifle-mounted grenades
 - 1 mortar shell
 - 1 unidentified explosive device
 - 1 anti-personnel mine
 - 1 mine-explosive device
 - 1 detonation fuse
 - 1 anti-tank anti-magnetic training mine
 - 21 automatic rifle magazines
 - 1 pistol magazine
 - 3,042 rounds of various ammunition
 - 4.8 kg of explosives
- **Border Police BiH:** As part of the aforementioned destruction initiative, the following items were destroyed by court order: 1 pistol, 1 rifle, 9 automatic rifles, and 18 pieces of different parts of weapons.
- **Federal Mol:** During the reporting period, the Federal Mol carried out the destruction of explosives, firearms, and firearm components, in accordance with court and prosecutor's office orders for items originating from criminal offenses.
- **Republika Srpska Mol:** As part of the same campaign, 168 firearms were destroyed, including:
 - 25 pistols,
 - 2 revolvers,
 - 74 rifles,
 - 5 shotguns,
 - 60 automatic rifles/assault rifles,
 - 2 machine guns,
 - 1 air rifle/pistols,
 - 41 gas/starter pistols.
- The **Mol of Central Bosnia Canton** destroyed 42 firearms and 677 rounds of ammunition.
- **Canton 10 Mol** conducted the destruction of the following items through smelting and recycling methods in cooperation with the Coordination Committee and UNDP in BiH:
 - 2 pistols
 - 5 rifles M 48
 - 3 semi-automatic rifles
 - 1 hunting rifle
 - 1 small-caliber rifle
 - 10 automatic rifles
 - 1 machine gun
 - 1 gas pistol
 - 1 hand grenade launcher
 - 1 RPG, 3 ammunition clips for an automatic rifle
 - 1 ammunition clip for a gas pistol
 - 1 handmade weapon
 - 1 hunting rifle barrel.

- **Zenica-Doboj MoI** reported the destruction of 26 pistols.
- **Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI and Herzegovina-Neretva MoI** reported destruction but provided no information.
- **Brcko District Police and Tuzla Canton MoI** reported no destruction of surplus, but reported public destruction of confiscated FAE without providing further details.
- **Una-Sana Canton MoI** reported no destruction of surplus.
- **Posavina Canton Ministries of Interior and West-Herzegovina Canton MoI** provided no information.

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 were 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?

- In accordance with a decision of the Government, the Army was engaged to support “Bechtel and Enka” on the Prilep–Bitola section in locating and destroying unexploded ordnance (UXO). The UXO discovered was duly destroyed at the Krivolak Army Training Area between 25 and 30 December 2025.
- The destruction took place in accordance with the 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?

Ministry of Defence:

- Procurement of a thermal destruction unit/container for ammunition with a caliber of up to 12.7 mm, using the heating method;
- Preparation of the range for the destruction of mines and explosives using the detonation method;
- Adaptation of a facility for testing the chemical stability of gunpowder.

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?

- During the reporting period, no stockpiles of firearms and ammunition have been destroyed. Albania does not have any armament and ammunition surpluses, except for those that complete the life cycle over the years, those that are confiscated by the MoI, or those found in different hotspots.
- With regards to the clearance of hotspots containing unexploded ordnances, the MoD, in the framework of the Demilitarization Programme, aims to complete their clearance in compliance with safety standards and rehabilitate such areas for further use. For the period 2022–2024, the MoD has foreseen the clearance of a surface area of 420,000 m².
- In the second half of 2024, by Order of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces (No. 930/24.09.2024), the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operation started for the clearance and certification of unexploded ammunition in the Jubë-Sukth hotspot, Durrës. The operation started on 1 October 2024 through 30 November 2024. So far, approximately 95,475 m² or 22.7% of the total area identified as contaminated has been cleared.
- The MoD is responsible for the physical security of SALW and explosive storage facilities of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF). As part of efforts to upgrade the security and safety measures in ammunition storage facilities, the MoD performed a general reconstruction in 3 tunnel-type storage facilities, in cooperation with EUCOM.
- As part of the EOD capacity-building efforts in 2024, the following specialized training courses were conducted:
 - EOD Level I with Albanian trainees and U.S. observers.
 - EOD Level III with Albanian trainees and U.S. observers.
 - EOD Level III facilitated by a U.S. trainer.
- During the reporting period, no activities were conducted for the destruction of firearms seized or collected from the civilian population or from armament and ammunition stockpiles.

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?

- **MoD:** No challenges or needs for support were identified during the reporting period.

ROADMAP GOAL 7

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

<p>Roadmap Overall Targets:</p>	<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.
<p>Progress information on Goal 7 Overall Targets</p>	<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.

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)?

- During the reporting period, the MoI conducted **57 inspections of legal entities** and entrepreneurs registered to provide training in firearms handling, repair, and conversion of weapons, as well as the trade of weapons, essential components, and ammunition. Inspections were also conducted on other legal entities and entrepreneurs who, due to their activities, acquire and possess weapons, with a focus on the safe storage of weapons and ammunition and proper maintenance of prescribed records.
- In accordance with the Law on Private Security, the MoI conducted regular inspections of legal entities and entrepreneurs providing private security services. These inspections evaluated compliance with operational requirements, the application of powers, and record-keeping as stipulated by the relevant law. They also assessed adherence to regulations on holding and carrying private security weapons. As part of this process, authorized police officers inspected the handling and carrying of firearms.
- All necessary controls and regular inspections were conducted in legal entities involved in the production of weapons and ammunition, as well as at training grounds and shooting ranges under the jurisdiction of the MoD and the Army. The MoD and the Army do not exercise control over SALW outside their own

systems. Within the MoD and SA structures, internal controls are conducted at all levels – ranging from basic units to higher command levels and inspectorates – according to prescribed timelines, through both regular and ad hoc inspections as required.

- During the reporting period, the MoI conducted **542 inspections in the field of private security**, identifying **448 violations** of the Law on Private Security. One inspection was carried out under the Law on Detective Activity, during which two violations were identified.
- The Ministry also conducted ongoing 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 or trade of explosive substances were inspected. Monthly inspections were conducted at explosive materials production and storage facilities. During the reporting period, **480 authorizations for the procurement of explosive materials were issued**, and their use was inspected.
- During the reporting period, 3,245 authorizations were issued for the transportation and transit of explosive substances for civilian use, pyrotechnic articles, hunting and sports weapons and ammunition, arms, and military equipment. These authorizations were issued in accordance with the Law on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods, the Law on Production of and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, the Law on Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment, and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition. During the reporting period, **no progress was made in strengthening the administrative capacity** in this field.

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?

- Natural persons reported **3,704 weapons as lost and 201 as stolen**. Legal entities reported **585 weapons as lost and 42 as stolen**.
- In 2024, institutions did not report any cases of lost or stolen 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?

- The implementation of the project to improve the evidence storage rooms for seized weapons and ammunition at the Police Directorate for the City of Belgrade did not start in 2024. However, during the reporting period, a meeting was held with representatives of the U.S. Embassy regarding the continuation of U.S. support to the MoI in the area of SALW physical security and stockpile management (PSSM). On that occasion, the Embassy requested written information about the Ministry’s priority goals in the field of PSSM.
- On 26 November 2024, a lecture was delivered for Somalian police officers on the “Methodology of Proving the Criminal Activities of Organised Criminal Groups in the Field of General Crime”, with particular emphasis on the illicit trade in SALW.

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?

- Both the MoI and the MoD have identified the need for further physical and technical capacity building of warehouse complexes and locations.
- Safe storage of SALW can be achieved by adapting a number of warehouse premises (micro locations – police stations). These facilities are used to store weapons and ammunition confiscated under relevant procedures, and those that have become the property of the institution (pending collection). In 2024, the Ministry of Interior reiterated the need for continued support from partners to improve these microlocations.
- In earlier periods, there were indications of plans to introduce technical protection measures, specifically: (1) the construction of a protective fence at the Kragujevac Technical Overhaul Centre (for ammunition overhaul), and (2) the installation of technical systems in storage warehouses in Pančevo and Smederevska Palanka. However, these measures have not been implemented.

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 involved in activities such as hunting, sports shooting, service provision, physical protection of individuals and properties, manufacturing, trade, repair and conversion, and transportation of weapons and ammunition were not carried out regularly.

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?

- Institutions reported no weapons or ammunition as lost.
- Citizens reported 31 firearms as lost or stolen.

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 MoD is implementing the project “Mitigation of Security Risks of SALW/SCA in Montenegro” in cooperation with the OSCE. The project includes activities aimed at ensuring safe storage and conditions of SALW/SCA, including the following that took place during the reporting period:
 - On 20 November 2024, the MoD received two MAN ADR vehicles equipped with lifting platforms and containers for the transport of hazardous material.
 - In September 2024, 12 individuals participated in a training to strengthen fire protection measures in the storage facilities.

- On 08-09 October 2024, representatives from Montenegro participated in the Regional Workshop on Weapons and Ammunition Management, held in Tirana. The workshop focused on strengthening stockpile management and ammunition surveillance capacities of the armed forces and ministries of defence in the Western Balkans and Moldova.

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?

- To ensure compliance with NATO Standard AASTP-1 (Edition C) for the safe storage of ammunition and to determine authorized quantities of ammunition per facility, all planned infrastructure work on the storage facilities must be completed. Therefore, the Montenegrin Armed Forces require financial support to finalize the infrastructure works, including the construction of a hydrant network, perimeter fencing, video surveillance, lighting, road construction, embankment repairs, and other project-specific works.
- The detailed design document is under development with support from the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

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)?

- Regular inspection activities and police checks have been conducted, with a particular focus on legal entities. During the reporting period, the MoI conducted **60 inspections**.

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 reported two firearms as lost. A police officer reported one firearm as lost.
- A total of 160 firearms of various models and calibers were reported as stolen. Of these, 87 firearms were reported by legal entities and 73 by civilians.

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?

- 72 metal cabinets for safe storage of firearms were delivered and installed in several police stations.

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 capacity-building trainings for inspectors.
- Technical equipment to support inspection activities.
- Integration of databases and implementation of real-time data entry systems are also required to enhance operational efficiency.
- Inspections need to be conducted on civilians possessing more than five firearms requiring further support.
- Support for these needs is currently pending.

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)?

- **MOFTER:** Inspection and supervision of firearms and military equipment manufacturers has been carried out regularly since 2005.
- **MoD:** The MoD is responsible for quality control in the procurement of assets, which is carried out through the relevant provisions of procurement contracts and based on internal Quality Control Instructions for Class V. The MoD's subordinate units conduct internal control in line with orders and the Standard Operating Procedures. Inspections of weapons storage sites, as well as storage sites for mines and explosive devices, are performed according to the annual Inspection Plan approved by the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces.
- **Federal MoI:** This falls under the jurisdiction of the cantonal MoIs. The Federal Police Administration is responsible only for overseeing operators involved in the production, transportation, and trade of explosive substances.
- **Republika Srpska MoI:**
 - According to the Law on Arms and Ammunition, which regulates authorized repair, sales, trade facilities, shooting ranges, hunting grounds, and training organizations, the MoI is responsible for overseeing and supervising these activities. It conducts timely controls of operators and entrepreneurs through its inspection and supervision commissions.
 - Inspection supervision over the activities of agencies providing security services for persons and property is mandated by the Law on Agencies for the Protection of Persons and Property and Private Detective Activity (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 4/12), and this is carried out in a timely manner by authorized personnel of the MoI.
 - During the reporting period, the Ministry conducted 8 regular inspections and one special inspection of legal entities providing private security, as well as private detective activities. Additionally, 27 operations were carried out, in which 395 members of security staff and 67 private security companies were inspected.
- **Brcko District Police, Tuzla Canton MoI, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde MoI, and Herzegovina-Neretva**

Canton Mol reported that they have inspection systems in place but provided no details.

- **Una-Sana Canton Mol** and **Zenica-Doboj Mol** reported that they did not conduct inspections during the reporting period.
- **Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior, Canton 10 Ministry of Interior** provided no information.

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?

- **Federal level (MoD)** provided no information.
- **Republika Srpska Mol: 283 weapons** were reported as lost during the reporting period. Current regulations do not classify reports of lost weapons based on theft or loss, nor by the category of the reporting parties. However, the reported figure primarily reflects losses reported by private individuals concerning their own firearms.
- **Tuzla Canton Mol:** Civilians reported 2 firearms as lost and 18 firearms as stolen.
- **Zenica-Doboj Canton Mol:** 3 firearms were reported as lost while 6 firearms as stolen.
- **Canton 10 Mol:** Civilians reported 1 firearm (hunting rifle) as lost and 1 firearm as stolen.
- **Brcko District Police** reported no lost or stolen weapons or ammunition.
- **Federal Ministry of Interior, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Una-Sana Canton Ministry of Interior, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Goražde Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior** provided no 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:** On 8-9 October, the MoD representatives participated in the Regional Workshop on Weapons and Ammunition Management in Tirana.
- **SIPA:** Other activities included reconstruction of storage facilities, including evidence rooms and auxiliary storage facilities for weapons and ammunition with support from UNDP. The SIPA also received equipment during the reporting period.
- **Republika Srpska Mol:**
 - The Administrative and Legal Affairs Department manages warehouses and storage facilities for weapons within the organisational units of the Mol. Weapons are deposited for various reasons, such as temporary surrender during probate procedures, international travel, surrender following the death of the owner, administrative or judicial proceedings, or as permanently seized or found items. These processes are conducted legally and safely.
 - During the reporting period, several police departments initiated procedures to resolve cases involving weapons stored for many years under such circumstances, aiming to fully regulate the warehouse conditions.
- **Una-Sana Canton Mol:** Yes, in cooperation with OSCE.
- **Sarajevo Canton Mol, Zenica- Doboj Canton Mol, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Gorazde Mol, and Canton 10** reported that they conducted no such activities in the reporting period.

- Federal Ministry of Interior, Brčko District Police, Posavina Canton Ministry of Interior, Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior, Central Bosnia Canton Ministry of Interior, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior provided no 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?

- No challenges or needs for support were reported during the reporting period.

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 centres)?

- During the reporting period, the MoI conducted **1,390 inspections** in accordance with the Law on Private Security. These inspections covered 1,173 facilities secured by 342 legal entities providing private security, as well as 33 legal entities providing security for their own needs. As a result of these inspections, 39 violations were identified, primarily related to cases where security personnel did not possess the required security identification card, as stipulated in Article 75, paragraph 4 of the Law on Private Security. 36 individuals and one legal entity were issued fines.
- The MoI also conducted 17 inspections of legal entities engaged in the trade of weapons and explosives, and 12 inspections of legal entities engaged in the trade of explosives, flammable liquids, and gases.

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 reported cases of lost firearms by legal entities or individuals.
- **Civilians reported 17 firearms as stolen.** There were no reported cases of stolen firearms by legal entities.

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?

- On 7-18 October 2024 and on 11-15 November 2024, two members of the Army participated in two respective workshops on testing the chemical stability of gunpowder. Both workshops were held in

Ljubljana with authority representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia.

- On 8-9 October, representative of the MoD participated in the Regional Workshop on Weapons and Ammunition Management, organised by SEESAC in Tirana.

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?

- Training on determining compliance with safety measures in explosive warehouses.

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 centres)?

- During the reporting period, the central and local structures of the Police have conducted inspections on entities such as retail shops, traders, shooting ranges, hunting ranges, private security companies, training centres, and on natural persons equipped with authorizations for carrying firearms in their residencies or carrying hunting firearms.
- In 2024, the Police and the Local Police Directorate units conducted the following inspections:
 - 14 inspections of retail shops, traders, shooting ranges, private security companies, training centres (out of 5 in 2023). Following these inspections, 7 revocations of authorization were issued for the Private Physical Security Services. No administrative measures were taken against legal entities licensed for firearm-related activities.
 - 180 inspections of individuals who have been issued firearms and hunting licenses by the Police in 2024 (out of 93 inspections in 2023). The measures issued by the Local Police Directorate for legal violations included:
 - 30 authorization revocations for carrying handguns in the domicile;
 - 315 authorization revocations for hunting weapons possession;
 - 15 authorization suspensions for hunting weapons possession.

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 reported cases of lost firearms during the reporting period.
- **Civilians reported 10 weapons as stolen**, including nine hunting weapons and one Glock.

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 Police:

- Following the completion of the feasibility study and field survey, the project “Enhancement of SALW Control Security Measures in Albania” funded by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by SEESAC has been suspended due to funding cuts. The project provided for the upgrade of 13 SALW storage facilities.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the MoD and the UNDP remains in effect until 31 December 2025. It supports activities related to the control of SALW, surplus weapons, and physical security management in Albania. The agreement’s extension facilitates the implementation of a project supplying metal cabinets for SALW to all units and departments of the Armed Forces, enhancing the safe storage of weapons currently in use.

MoD:

- In spite of all the work and progress made so far, the MoD/General Staff of the Armed Forces (GSAF) will continue to pursue and fulfil the obligations regarding the disposal of surplus and confiscated weapons and ammunition, including ongoing investments to improve and upgrade the safety and security of ammunition storage facilities in accordance with international standards.
- On 8-9 October 2024, the MoD representatives attended a Regional Meeting on Weapons and Ammunition Management, held in Tirana. The purpose of this meeting was to strengthen stockpile management and ammunition surveillance capacities.

Military Industry

- The process of revitalizing the military industry has started, regulated through amendments to the legal framework related to the industry, alongside the drafting and implementation of an action plan to achieve the objectives set by the Government.

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 Police:

- Safety and security upgrades in 37 storage facilities/warehouses managing SALW, in addition to those already supported through the ongoing projects.
- Following a request from the MoI, technical and financial support was provided from UNDP/SEESAC to upgrade infrastructure and meet safety and security standards in 13 storage facilities. This activity was part of the project funded by the U.S. Department of State. Due to the funding cut by the U.S. State Department, other funding opportunities are being explored to further improve infrastructure and safety conditions, in line with international standards.

MoD:

- The MoD has submitted a request to continue the project supporting and equipping Armed Forces units and divisions with nearly 700 metal racks for SALW, aimed at improving the safe storage of weapons.



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