



13th Regional Progress Reports - Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap

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Roadmap Implementation (Phase I/2019-2024)

Funding Support ● **Coordination and monitoring platform** established & supported through **EU Council Decisions**.

Coordination Meetings ● **13 rounds of local coordination meetings** and **13 regional coordination meetings** organized.

Progress Reports ● **13 narrative progress reports** and **11 Key Performance Indicators reports**.

SALW Control MPTF ● A **Multi Partner Trust Fund** is established and operational.

High Level Meetings ● **Four high-level meetings**

Mid Term and Final Review ● Mid-Term Review completed in 2022. Final Review initiated in June 2025.

Phase 2 ● The Roadmap 2025-2030 endorsed at the EU - Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs held in Budva in 2024.

Roadmap Final Review (2019-2024)



Key aspects at regional and jurisdictional levels:

- Progress in the implementation of the Roadmap Goals during the first phase and follow-up to the Mid-term Review recommendations.
- Challenges and gaps identified in the implementation of the Roadmap's first phase;
- Mapping of support in the implementation of the Roadmap.
- To be completed by **end of 2025**.

Support to Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap (2018 – 2024)



6
Jurisdictions

20
Implementing
partners

9
Donors

26
Fully funded
projects

10
Partially funded
projects

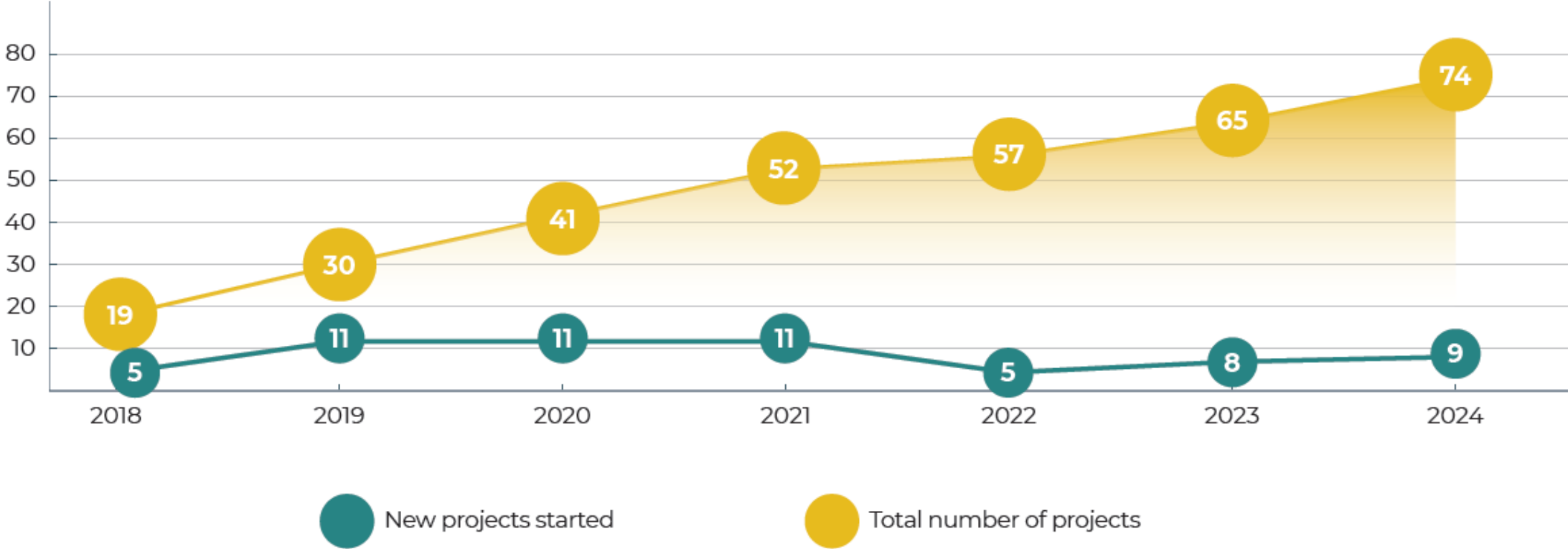
38
Completed
projects

over \approx 90 mil. EUR

In direct support of the Roadmap
implementation

Support to Western Balkan SALW Control Roadmap (2018 – 2024)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS per year and new projects started 2018-2024



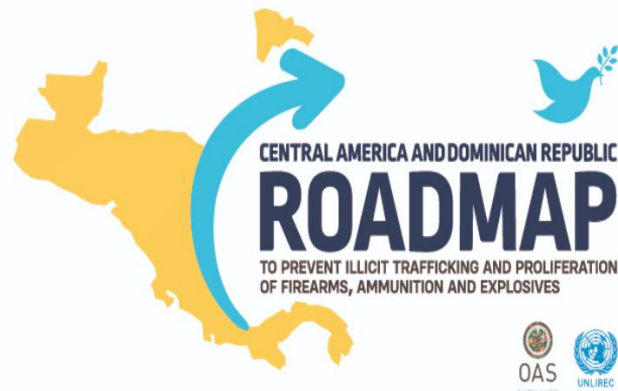
Support to the Roadmap (2018 – 2024)



A model of regional cooperation and good practices



- United Nations Secretary General reports on Small Arms and Light Weapons:
 - Among the best practices globally on regional approach;
 - A “positive example” and a potential model for other regions.
- The **Berlin Process Summit and the EU-Western Balkans Summit** reaffirmed the importance of the SALW Control Roadmap and its impact on regional cooperation, fight against organized crime and regional stability.
- Adoption of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap (2020) and Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap (2025) following the Western Balkans model.
- Strengthened interregional cooperation and sharing of good practices.



Findings

Narrative and Key Performance Indicators Reports

1

Goal

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.

2

Goal

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

3

Goal

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

4

Goal

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

5

Goal

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

6

Goal

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

7

Goal

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



1

Goal

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.

Reported progress

- **All jurisdictions** report main laws on firearms, ammunition and explosives for civil use in place.
- **No progress reported in adoption** of laws on weapons, ammunition and explosives for civil use, in harmonization with the EU Acquis. **Drafting of amendments** is reported as ongoing while laws on explosives are pending adoption in three jurisdictions.
- **Three jurisdictions report** full compliance with the Firearms Protocol. Amendments to the Criminal Code still in process in Belgrade, Tirana and Sarajevo.
- Belgrade reports joining of the International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms (CIP).

2 Goal

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

Reported progress

- **SALW Commissions** – coordinating and monitoring SALW Control-related activities in line with SALW Strategies and the Roadmap.
- All jurisdictions had **valid SALW Control strategies until the end of 2024**. Evaluation and drafting of new strategies ongoing in several jurisdictions.
- Active participation/engagement in capacity-building activities, in particular in **integrating gender perspective** in preventing domestic and gender-based violence.
- Improved **recording keeping systems** reported by most jurisdictions, but inter-institutional information exchange remains still an identified need.

Reported progress

2

Goal

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

- **FFP reported as established** in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Skopje, and Tirana.
 - Sarajevo reports ongoing efforts to ensure its establishment while in Skopje FFP is yet to become operational.
- **Intensified efforts in accreditation of Ballistic laboratories** were reported by most jurisdictions, with some of them reporting completion of accreditation processes for several methods.
- All six jurisdictions reported **regular exchange** of through SIENA and **tracing of firearms** via iARMS. Extension of access to SIENA reported by several jurisdictions.
- **Improved FAE-related investigation capacities** through specialized equipment, capacity-building activities, and SOPs development.

3

Goal

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

Reported progress

- Four jurisdictions have reported cases of trafficking of firearms in the reporting period, while Sarajevo reported the highest number of cases of illegally manufactured firearms.
- Activities aiming to strengthen **capacities for detection and investigation of FAE** reported as ongoing in all jurisdictions:
 - Specialized training and equipment for the criminal and border police.
 - Enhanced capacities of customs and postal operators
 - Participation in cross-border and regional activities,
 - Specialized trainings and workshops to counter firearm trafficking

3

Goal

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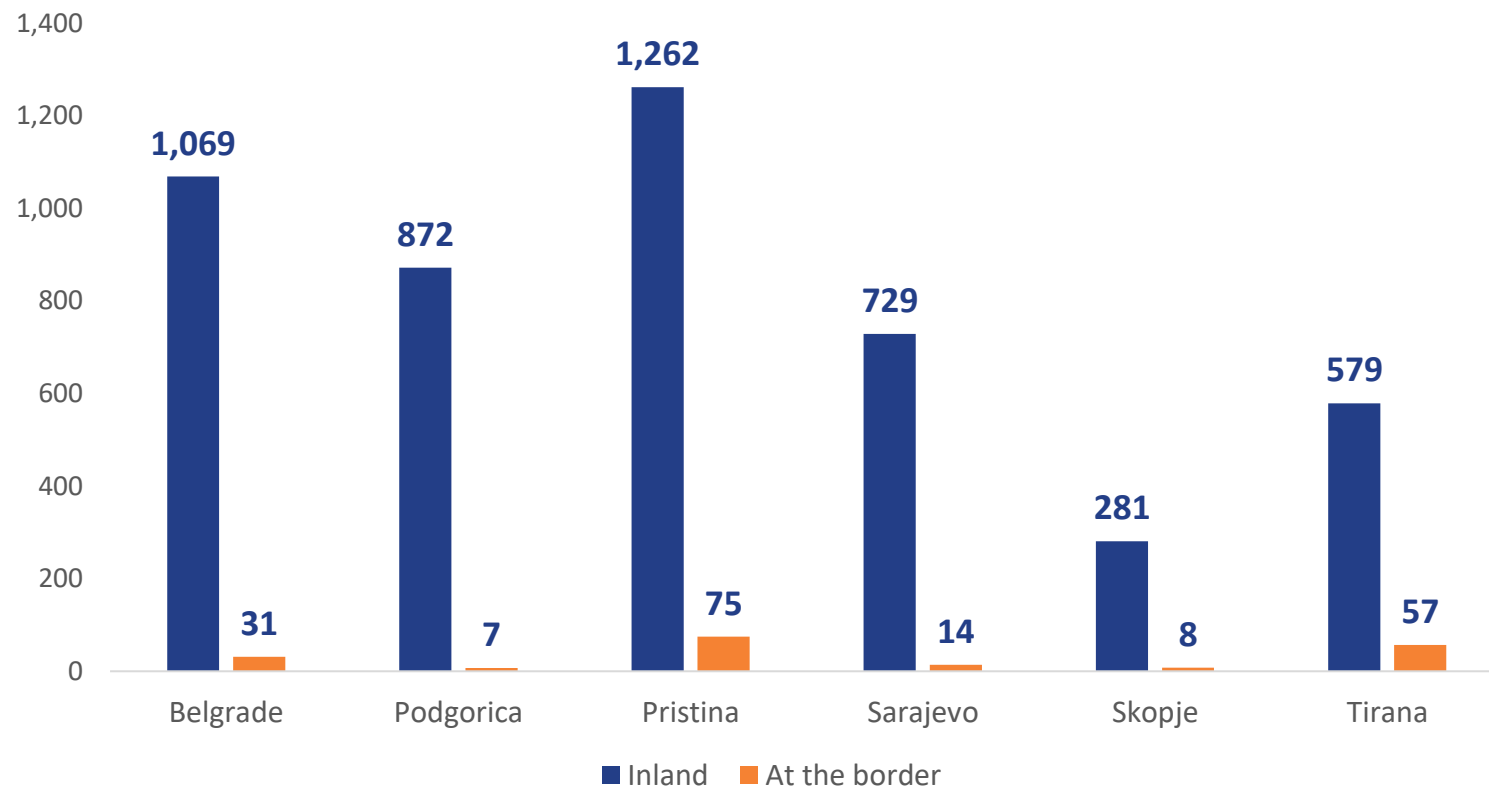
Reported progress

- Belgrade, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Tirana reported strengthening of K9 capacities (infrastructure, SOPs, specialized equipment, study visits, trainings).
- Continued **operational cooperation** with EUROPOL, INTERPOL, FRONTEX and the region within EMPACT operations reported;
- Most jurisdictions reported capacity-building activities to enhance **capacities of prosecutors and judges** for prosecution and adjudication of firearms-related offences.
- All jurisdictions report active participation in joint operations including as part of the **Joint Action Days (SEE JAD)**
- No reported cases of diversion of arms or ammunition exported.

3 Goal

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

Firearms seized inland and at the borders in 2024

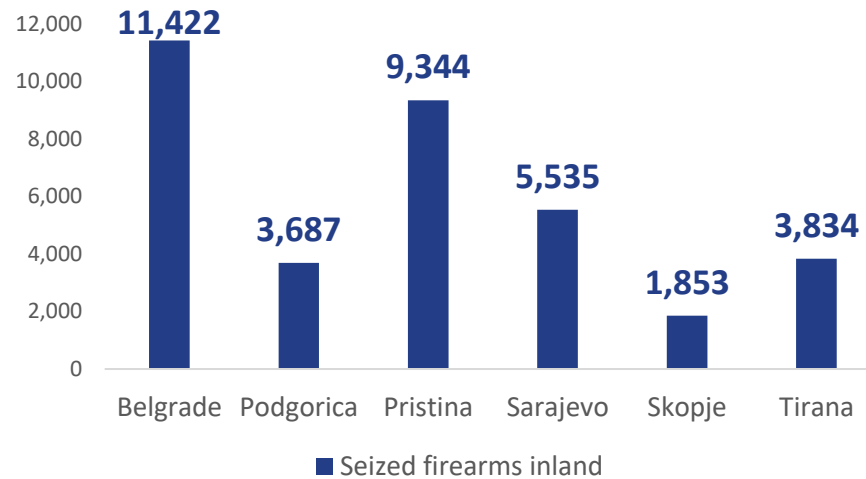


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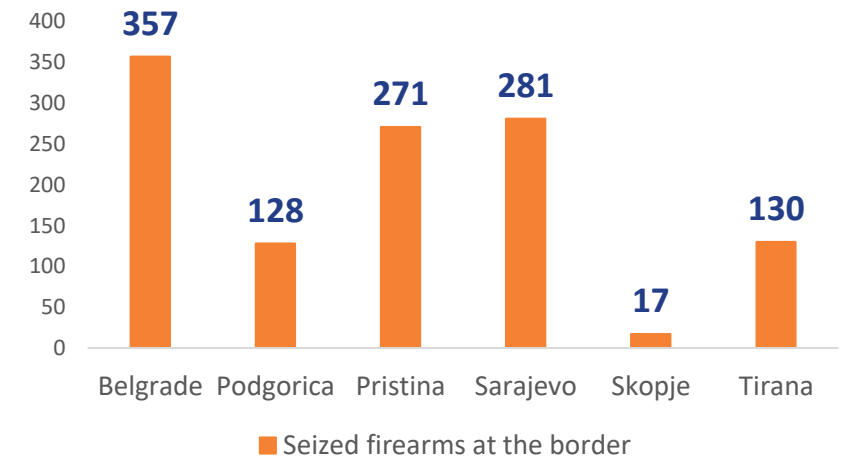
Goal

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

Firearms seized inland by jurisdiction (2018-2024)



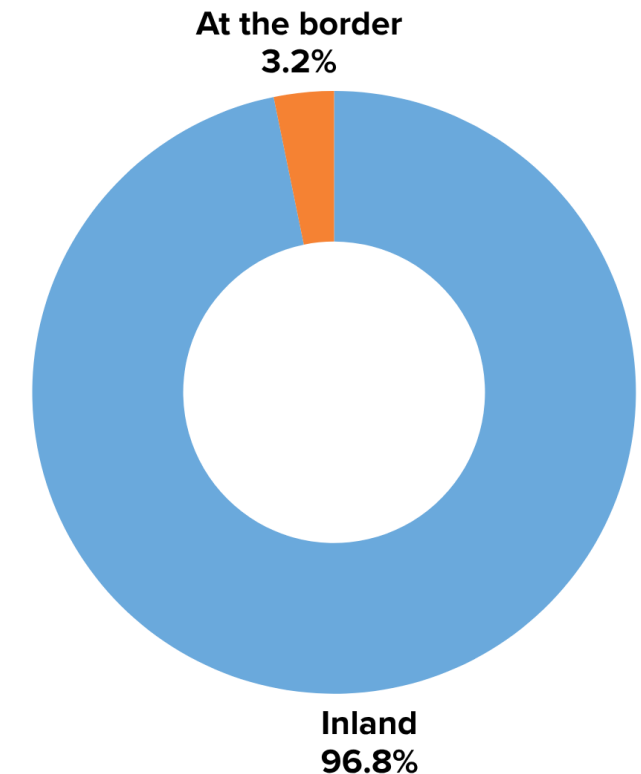
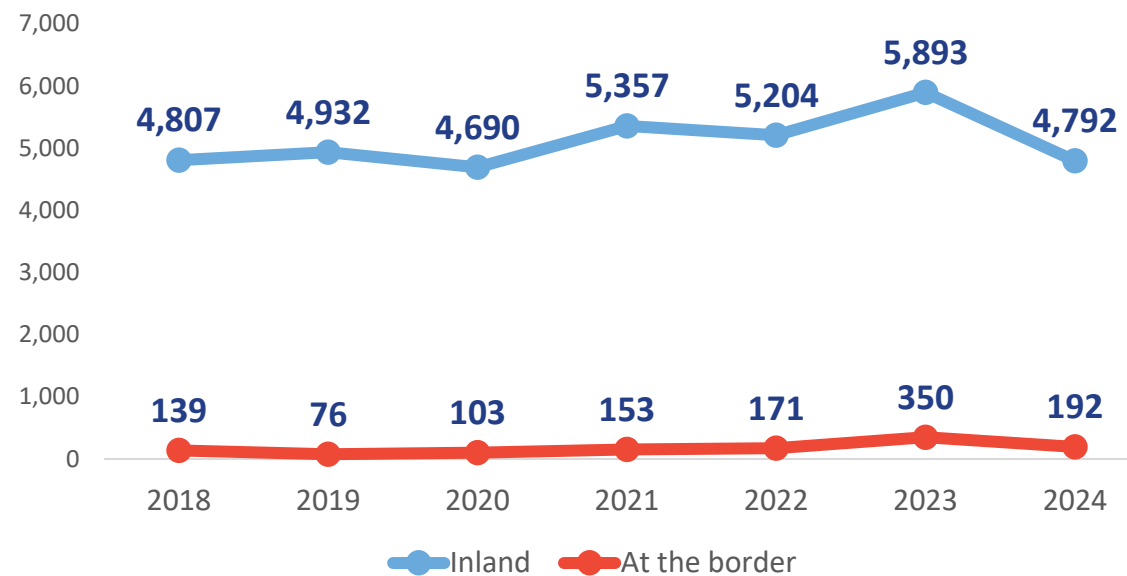
Firearms seized at the borders by jurisdiction (2018-2024)



3 Goal

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

Seized firearms inland and at the borders in the region



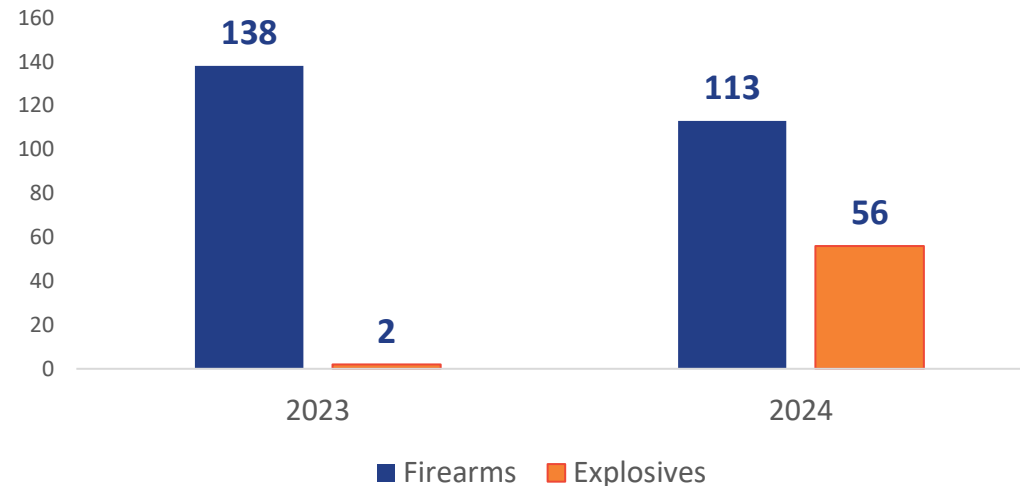
3 Goal

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

Key Performance Indicator 5 - *Number of reported cases of FAE seized at the borders of the European Union and traced to the Western Balkans, compared to the number of FAE seized throughout the European Union and traced to or diverted from the Western Balkans.*

- Data on KPI 5 submitted by Sweden for 2023 and 2024.
- **309 seized firearms and explosives reported as** originating from the Western Balkans (based on firearms type).

Firearms and explosives reported seized in Sweden





4

Goal

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

Reported progress

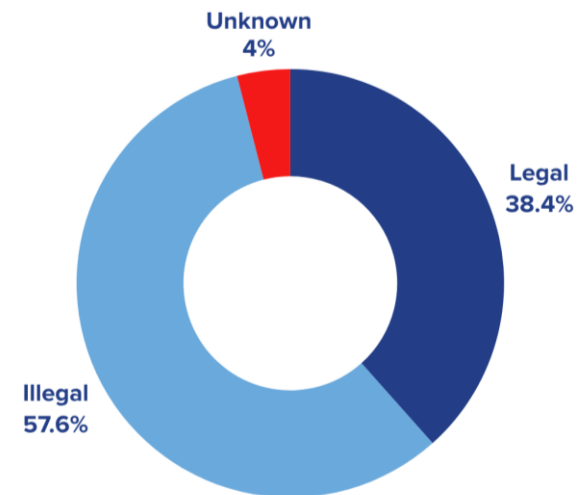
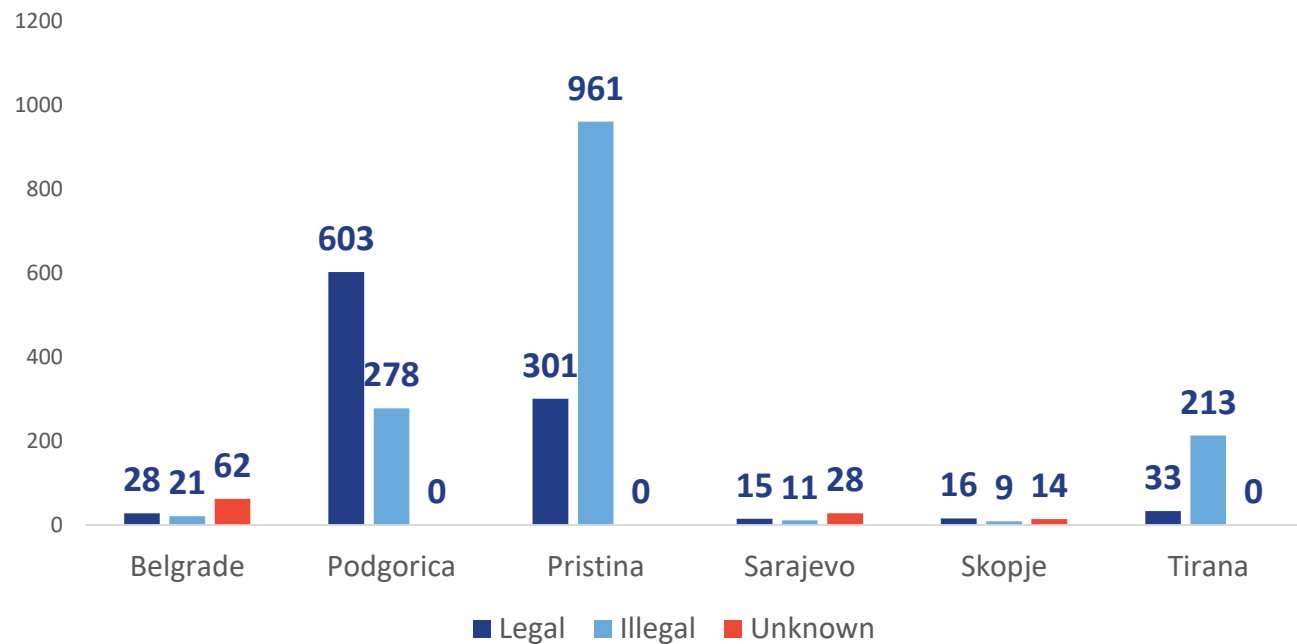
- Activities related to **awareness raising, outreach and education** reported in most jurisdictions, mainly focusing on:
 - Dangers and risks of illegal possession and misuse of firearms
 - Celebratory shootings and pyrotechnics
 - Youth/young men – targeting high school students
 - Firearms misuse in domestic violence
 - Responsible ownership/safe storage
 - Preventive activities with hunting associations
- Limited number of activities in raising awareness among licensed and legal entities and FAE producers.
- All jurisdictions continue to participate in the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force – Collective effort to enhance effectiveness of awareness-raising initiatives.

4

Goal

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

Incidents with firearms by jurisdiction in 2024

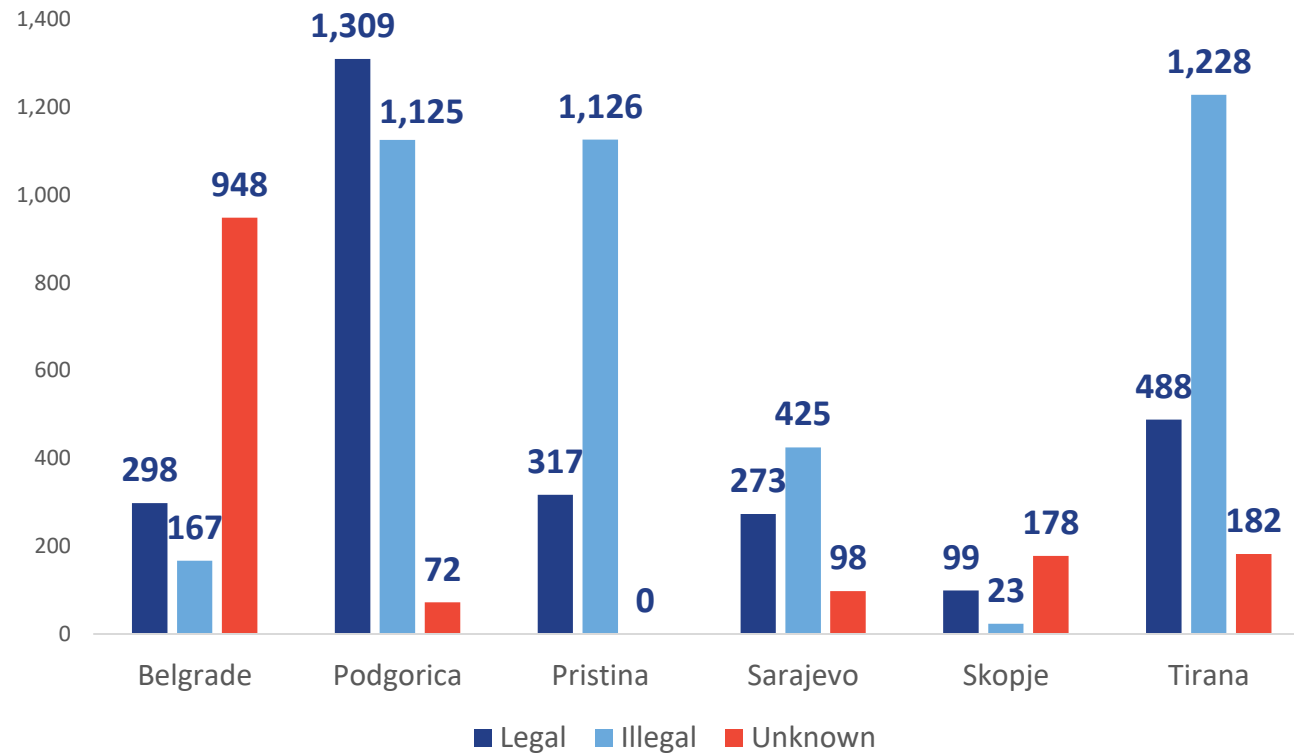


4

Goal

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

Incidents with firearms by jurisdiction (2018-2024)

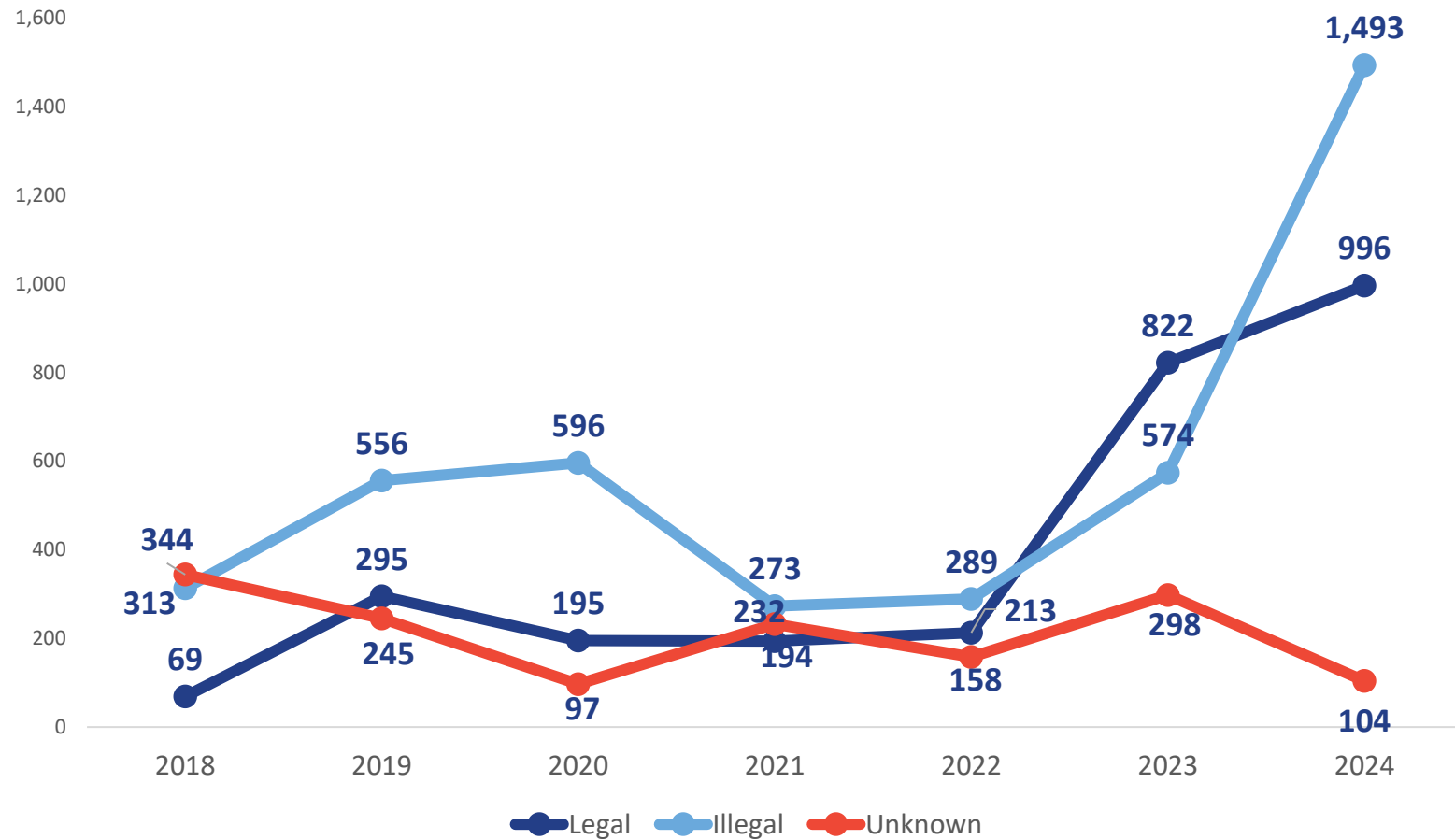


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Goal

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

Firearm-related incidents in the region (2018-2024)

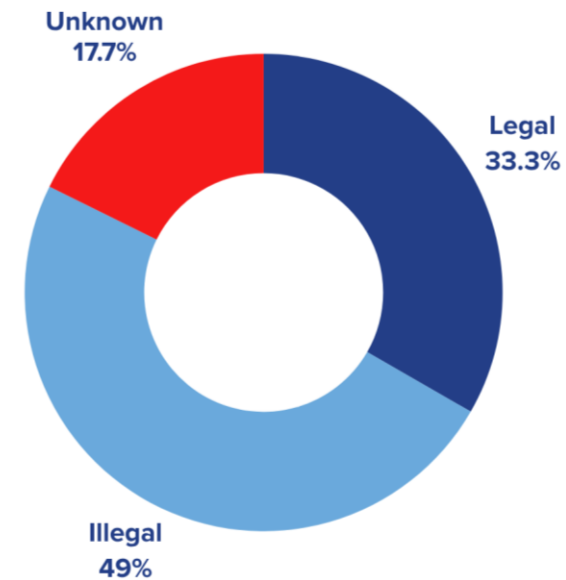
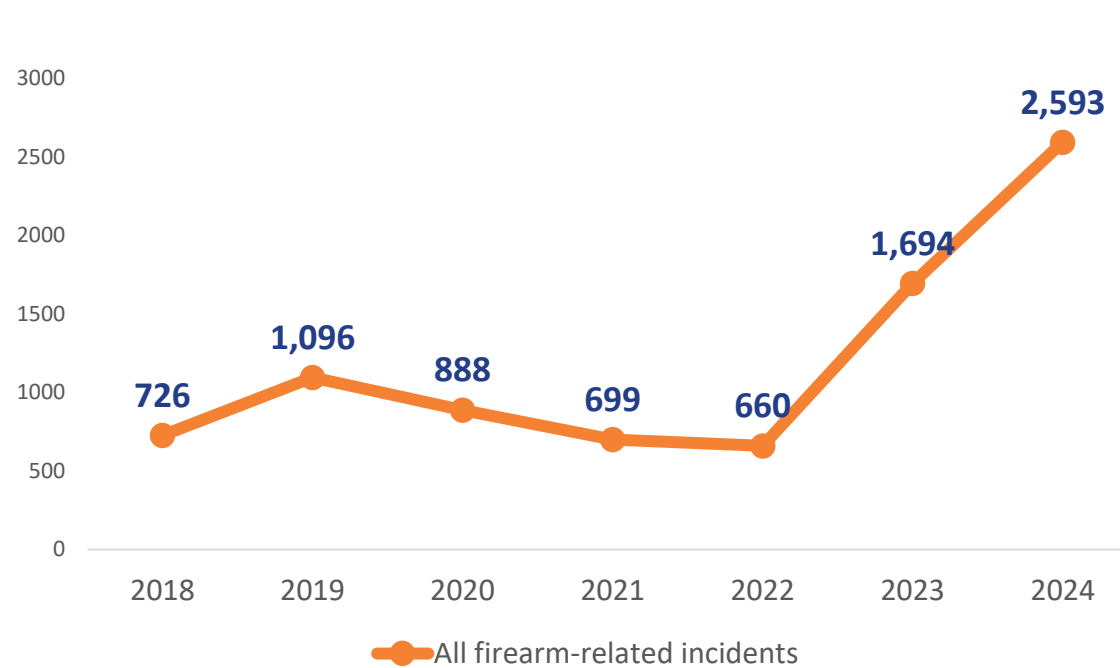


4

Goal

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

All firearm-related incidents in the region (2018-2024)



Firearm-related Incidents 2019-2024

Firearm seizures were the most frequently reported type of incident (46%). Handguns representing 46% of all seizures of a single type of weapon.

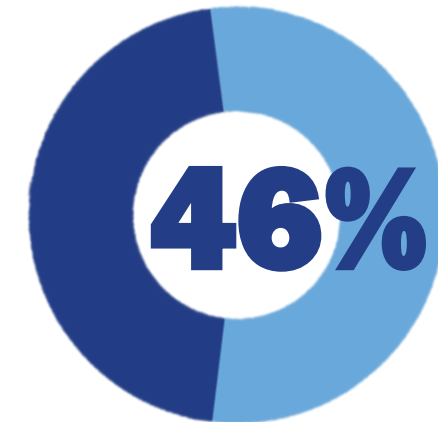
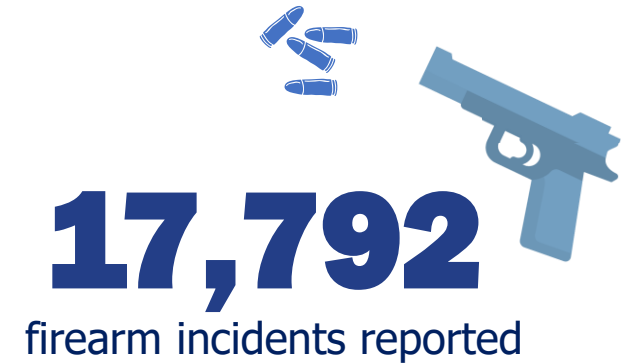
Incidents in the **criminal context incidents ranked second**, but have been on decline since 2021.

In the criminal context, **armed robbery cases** (1,535 in total) **dropped by 60%**, from 2019 in 2024. In contrast, **incidents linked to organized crime** (731 cases in total) **increased** steadily to a peak in 2023.

Firearm Incidents in domestic settings accounted for about **3% of all reported firearm cases**. Yet, domestic violence involving firearms had the **highest number of fatalities** of all other types of incidents.

Firearm-related **domestic violence incidents were in steady increase**, from 2019 to 2024.

Incidents with gas pistols nearly doubled between 2019 and 2024.



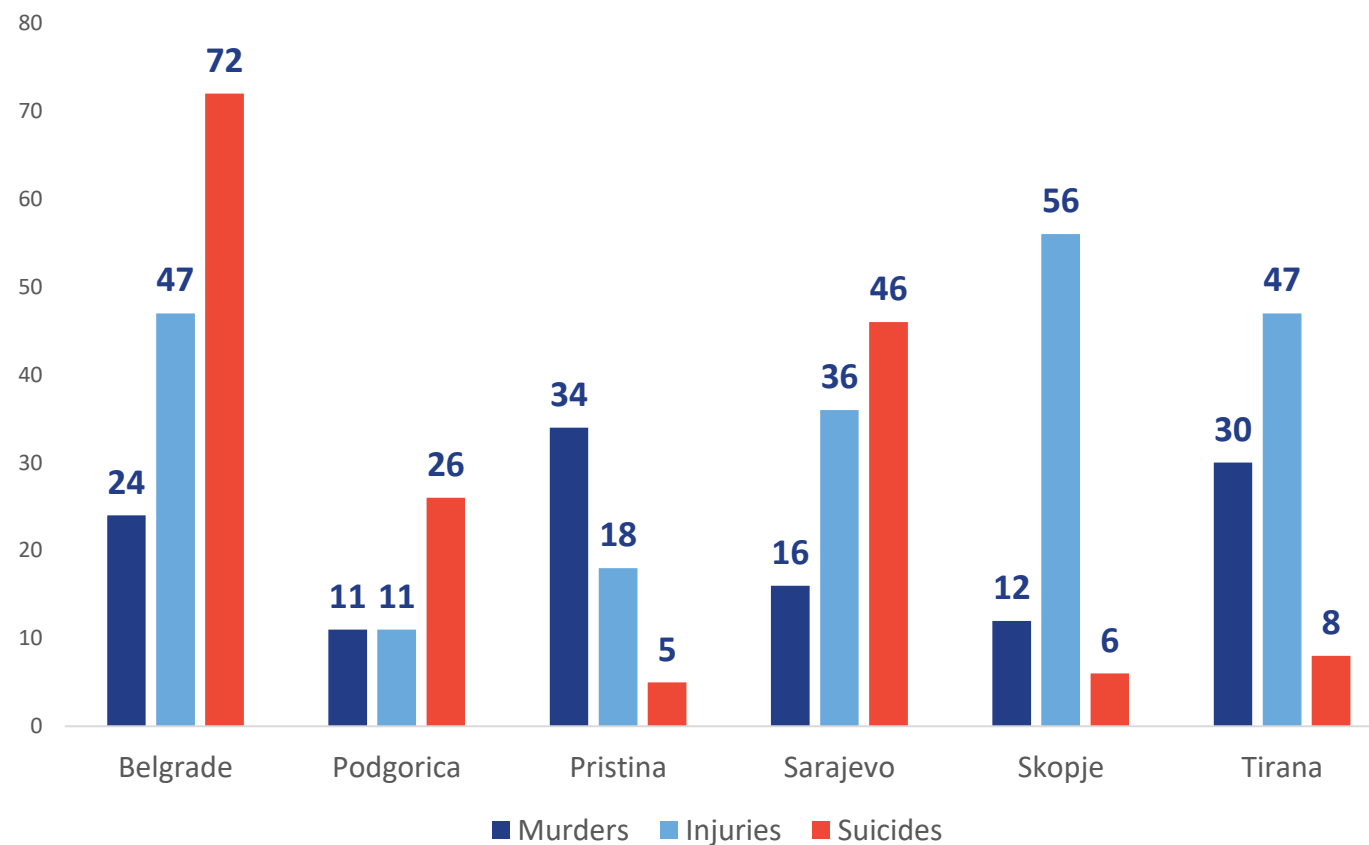
of all incidents were
weapon seizures

4

Goal

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

Number of victims affected by the misuse of firearms by jurisdiction in 2024

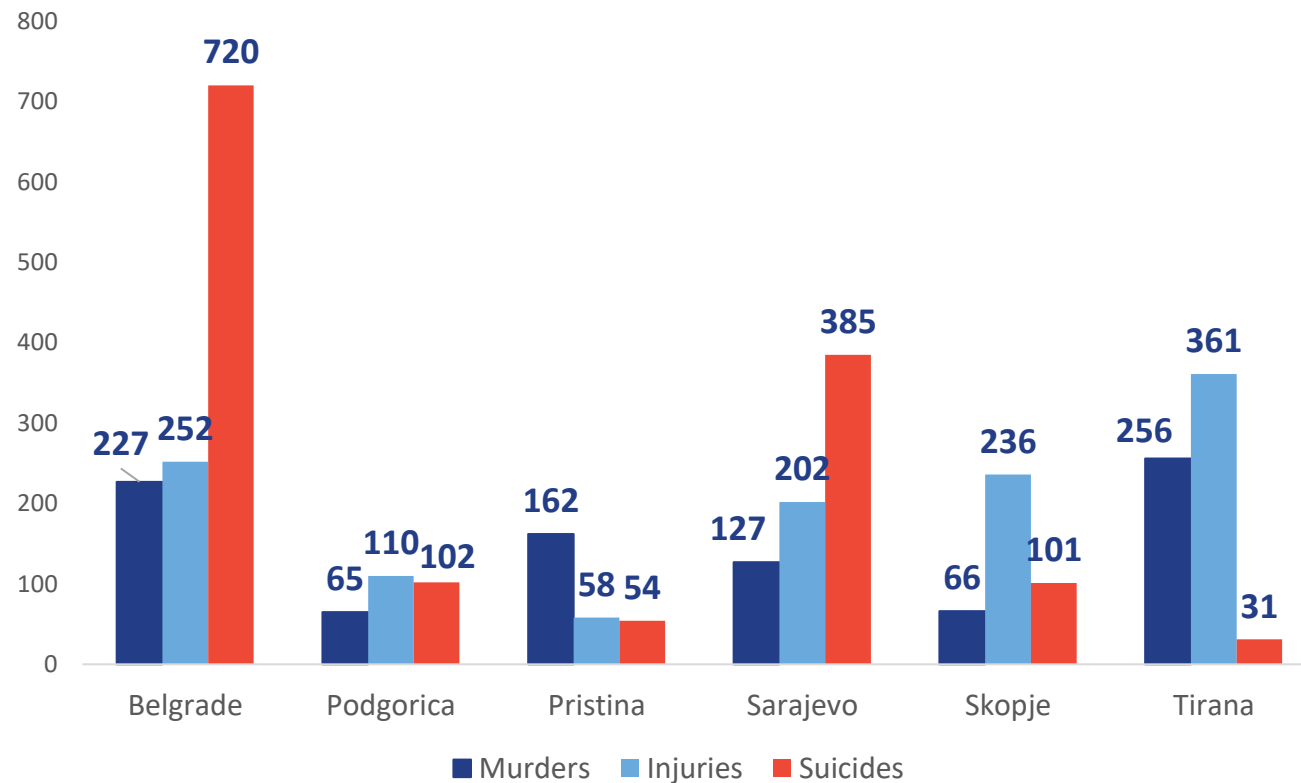


4

Goal

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

Number of victims affected by the misuse of firearms by jurisdiction (2018-2024)





5 Goal

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

Reported progress

- In 2024, five jurisdictions reported firearms voluntarily surrendered with Belgrade reporting a significantly higher number compared to other jurisdictions.
- Number of legalized firearms reported in 2024 very low and only by Sarajevo.
- Three jurisdictions reported deactivated firearms with Belgrade reporting the highest number.
- Most jurisdictions reported ongoing efforts in improving the capacities for deactivation through improved infrastructure, equipment and training.

5 Goal

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

Voluntarily surrendered firearms by jurisdiction in 2024



5 Goal

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

Voluntarily surrendered firearms by jurisdiction (2018-2024)



5

Goal

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

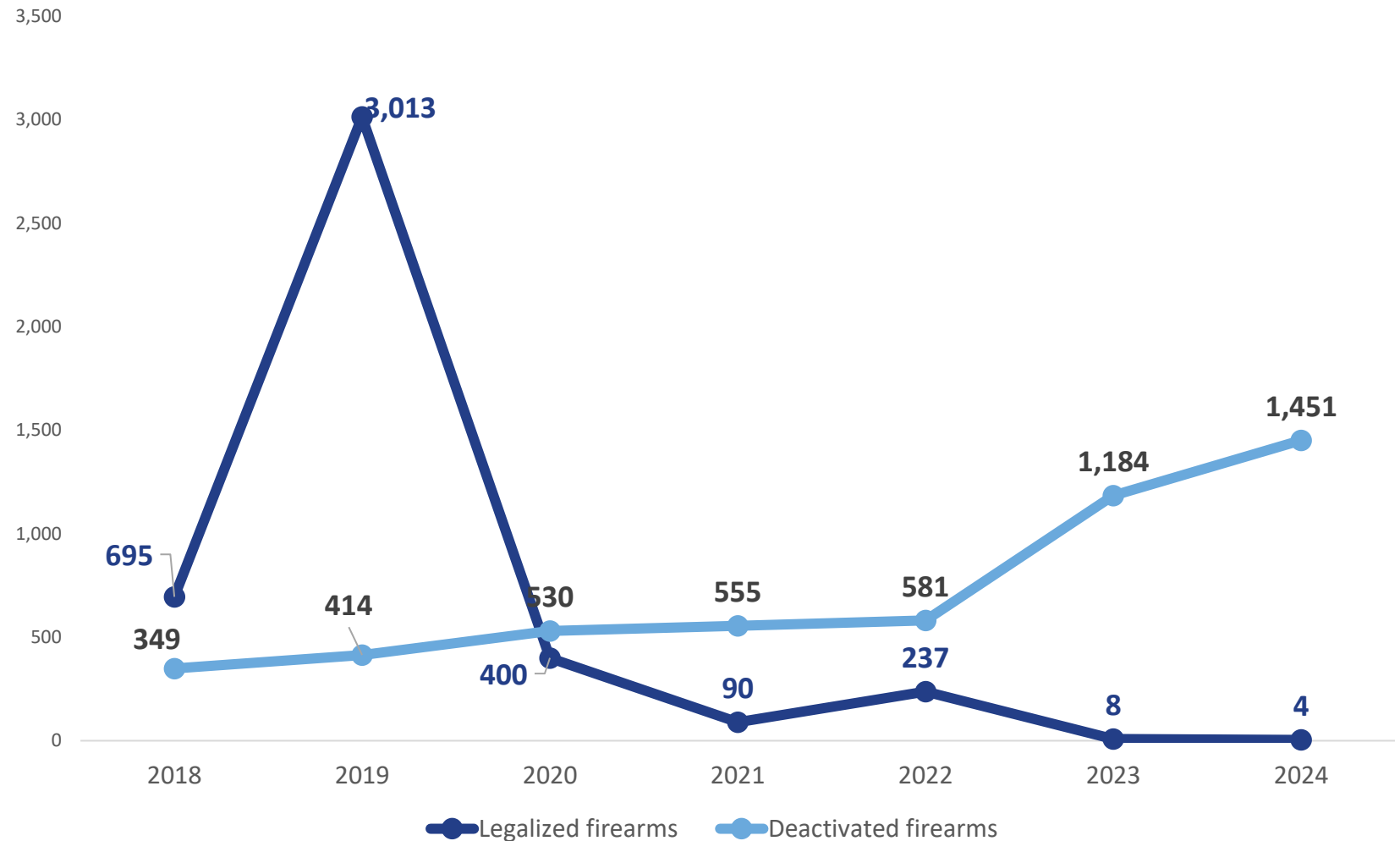
Legalized and deactivated firearms by jurisdiction in 2024



5 Goal

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

Legalized and deactivated firearms in the Region (2018-2024)





6

Goal

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

Reported progress

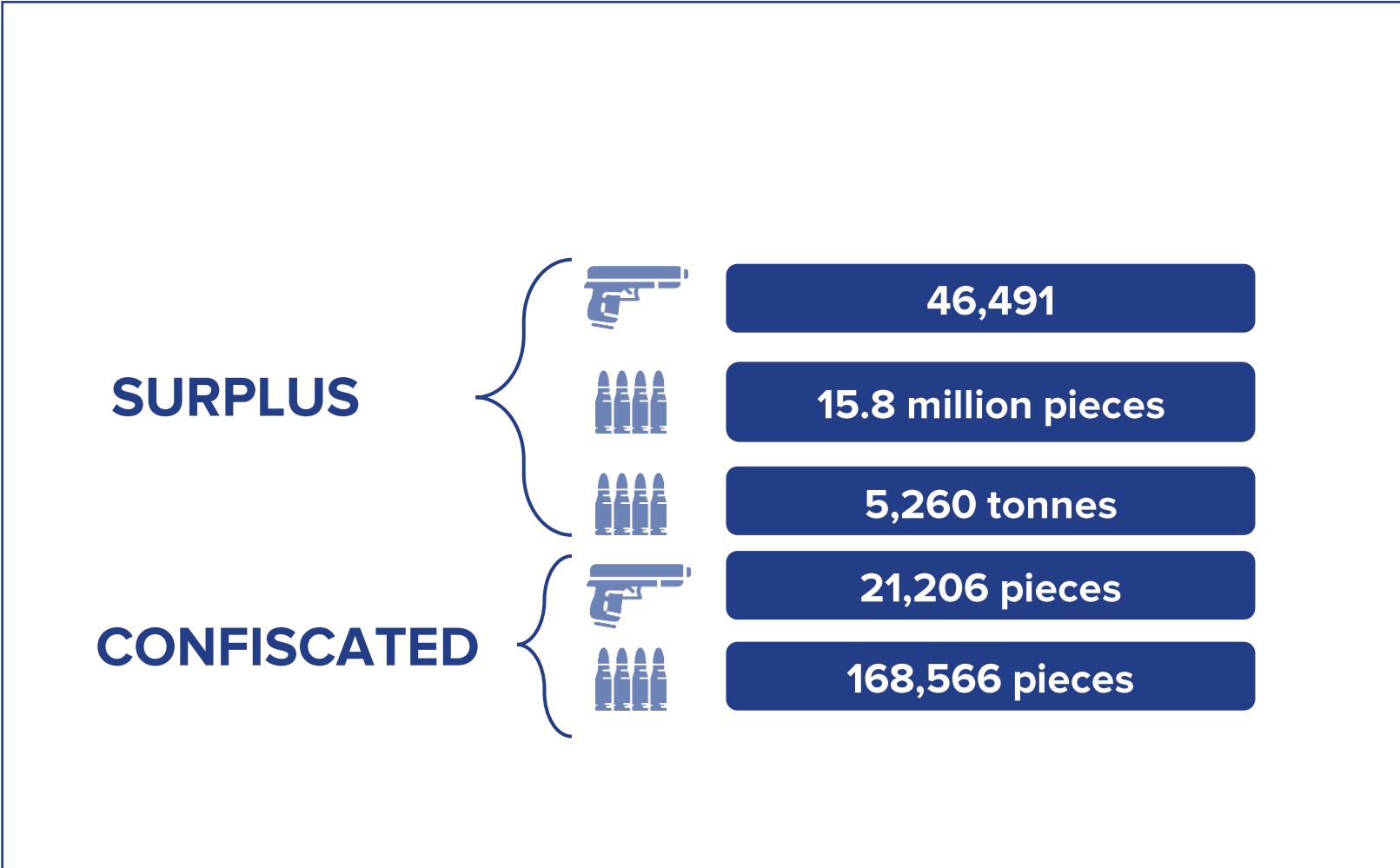
- **Pristina and Sarajevo** report destruction of confiscated firearms and ammunition in 2024 while **Sarajevo and Podgorica** report reduction of ammunition surplus;
- **Belgrade, Skopje, and Tirana** reported no destruction of surplus ammunition;

Destroyed surplus & confiscated firearms and ammunition 2018-2024

6

Goal

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



7

Goal

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

Reported progress

- **Increased number of inspections** reported by most of jurisdictions mainly to private security companies, shops, shooting ranges, manufacturers and civilians.
- **Security upgrades** of storage facilities and evidence rooms reported by Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, and Tirana.
- **Increased capacities** for physical security and stockpile management reported by several jurisdictions.

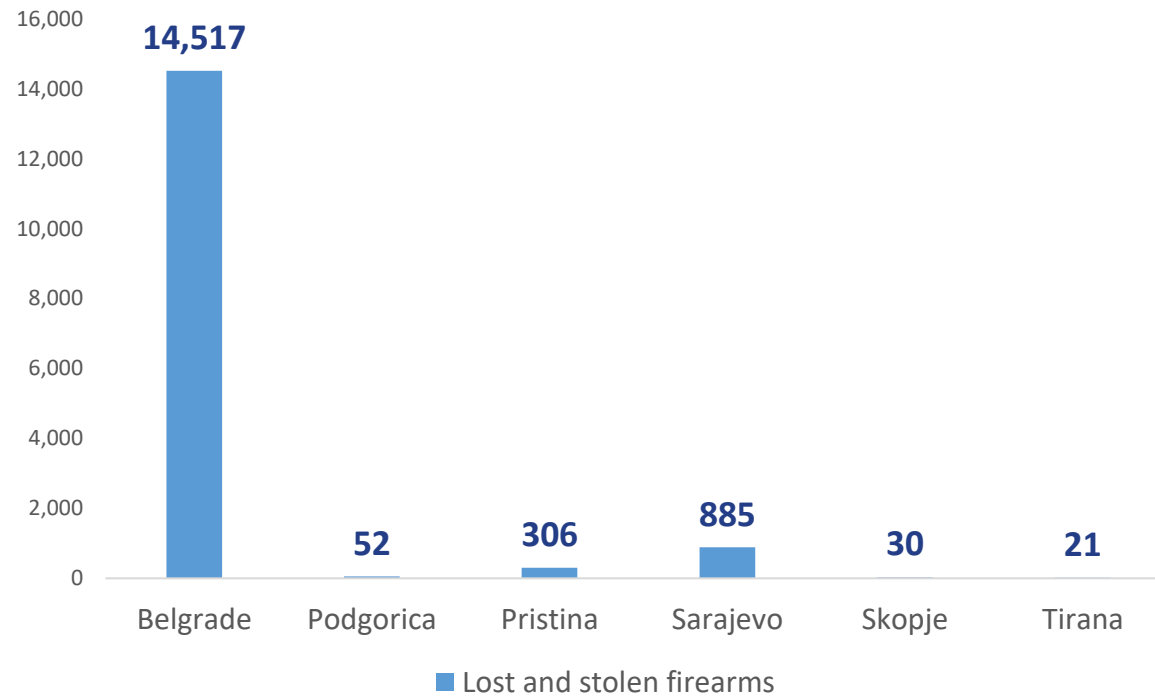
7

Goal

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

Lost and Stolen Firearms by Jurisdiction in 2024

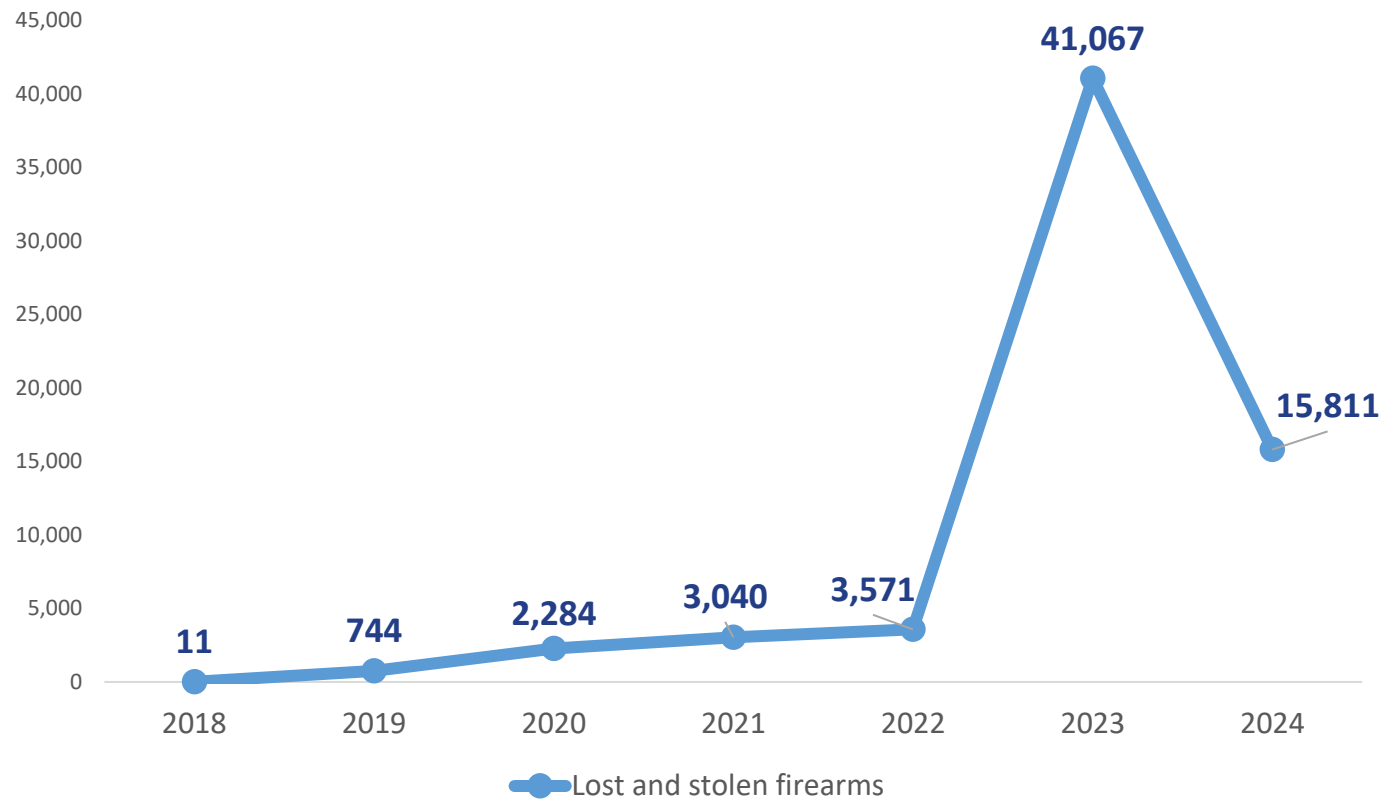
- A total of **15,811 firearms** were reported as lost and/or stolen in 2024.



7 Goal

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

Lost and Stolen Firearms in the Region (2018-2024)



Challenges and needs

- **Frequent government changes** slowed down decision-making and prolonged processes of drafting and adoption of key legal framework in several jurisdictions;
- **Increased number of incidents** with firearms in legal possession
- **Lack of knowledge and expertise** in the area of explosives precursors control.
- **Automated data exchange** among law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions.
- Need for further support in improving **investigation capacities.**



13th Regional
Progress
Reports

Challenges and needs

- **No legal provisions** in several jurisdictions allowing legalization or voluntary surrender of firearms.
- **Improvement of deactivation capacities** as a tool for reducing firearms in illegal possession.
- **Awareness raising** of the dangers of firearms proliferation among licensed private entities remains low.
- Continuous need for **enhancement of storages and evidence rooms** security infrastructure.



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Thank you!

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