



Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of SALW in the Western Balkans

Monitoring Framework

(13th Progress Reports)

Skopje, 17 June 2025



ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring & Coordination Platform

Monitoring

SALW Commissions submit progress reports on biannual and annual basis:

- Annual KPI Report 1 (January - 31 December 2024);
 - Biannual Roadmap narrative reports (1 January – 31 December 2024);
- SEESAC integrates the data and information into a regional report.

Coordination

- Local coordination Meetings
- Regional Coordination Meetings (Sarajevo, 8-9 July 2025)
- Multi Partner Trust Fund

ROADMAP(2019-2024) FINAL REVIEW

- Key aspects at regional and jurisdictional level:
 - 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.





Goal 1

(KPI 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.

- **The Law on Weapons** is reported as partially harmonized with the EU Acquis;
- **Law on Development, Production and Trade of Military Goods** and **Law on Export Control of dual-use Items and Technology** are also reported as partially harmonised with the EU Acquis;
- Relevant **laws on explosives** are reported as not harmonized.
- **The Criminal Code** is reported to be fully harmonized with the Firearms Protocol.



Goal 2

(KPI 2, 3, 7 & 8)

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

- **The SALW Commission** continued to coordinate and monitor arms control activities under the Roadmap and SALW Control Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2024);
 - There is **no joint information exchange system** between the police, prosecutors, and courts.
 - While the **Firearms Focal Point (FFP)** remained not fully operational, during the reporting period authorities reported relevant databases being connected and ongoing efforts to appoint FFP staff.
 - Regular use and information **exchange reported through SIENA and iARMS**; access to iARMS expanded to Criminal Police Department, and Customs.
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Goal 2

(KPI 2, 3, 7 & 8)

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

- Participation in the intelligence and operational phase of **JAD SEE 2024** was reported;
- Two Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed (**risk analysis in cases involving weapons, ammunition, and explosives**, and for the **FFP**);
- **Electronic submission** of the requests for the issuance of weapons approvals through MOI website;
- Ballistic laboratory is reported as **accredited for two methods**. Instructions and SOPs developed.
- Upgrading the **ballistics laboratory shooting range** finalized.



Goal 3

(KPI 4, 6 & 9)

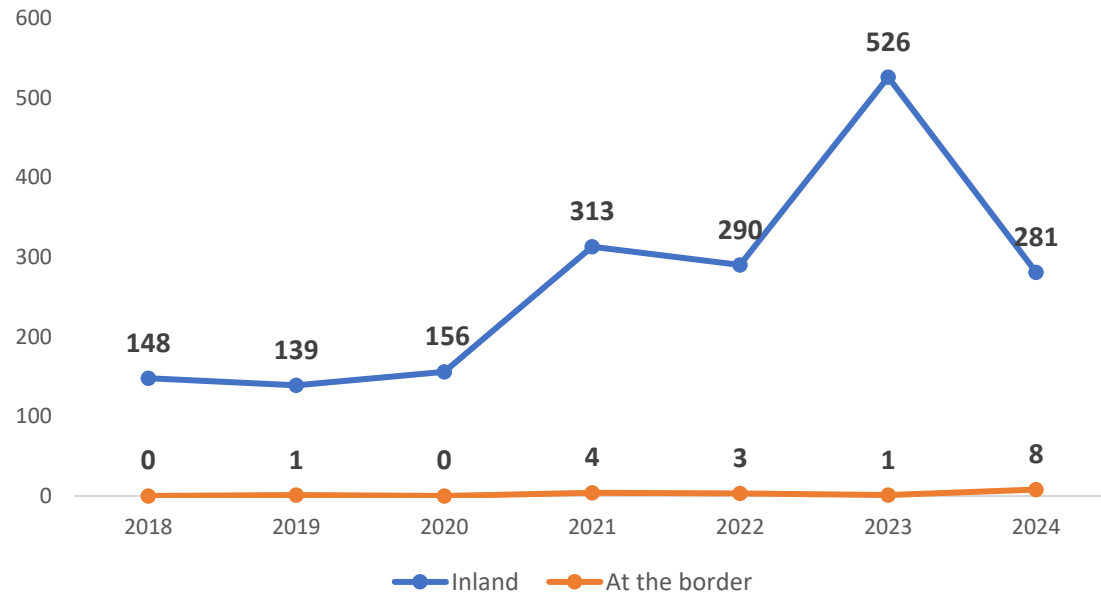
By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.

- Enhanced capacities in preventing and countering trafficking of FAE:
 - Assessment of Customs capacities to counter trafficking of firearms completed.
 - Reported construction of a Regional Training and Certification Center for K-9 handlers.
- Continued information exchange and operational cooperation reported with EUROPOL, INTERPOL and EU member states.
- **No cases of diversion** of arms exports were reported.
- Number of **seizures** that took place inland significantly exceeds those at the border.

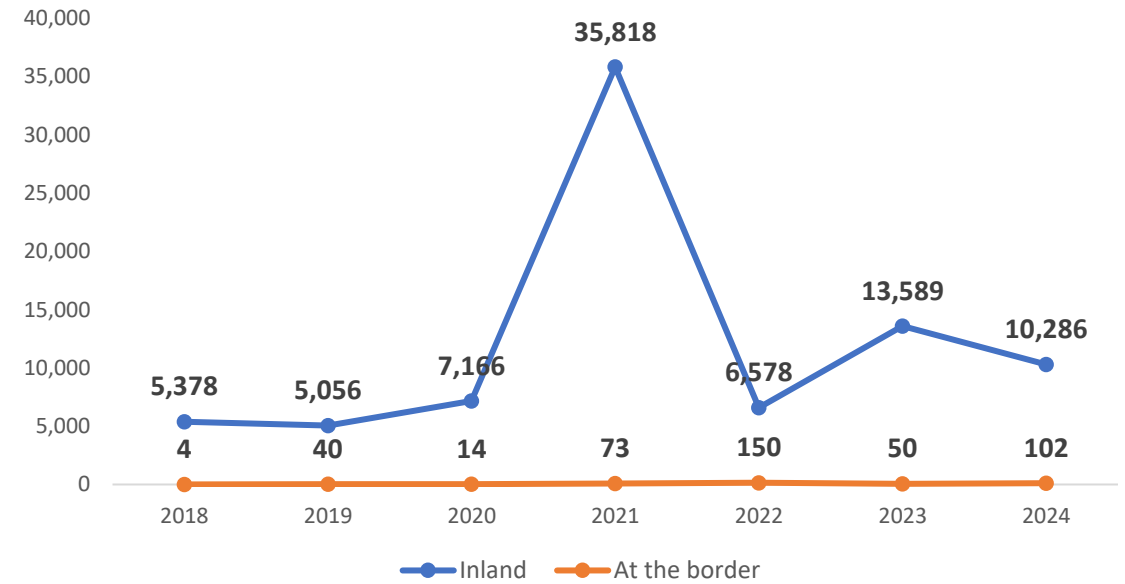
KPI 4

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SEIZED

Firearms seized inland and at the border 2018-2024



Ammunition seized inland and at the border 2018-2024





Goals 4&5

(KPI 10 & 11)

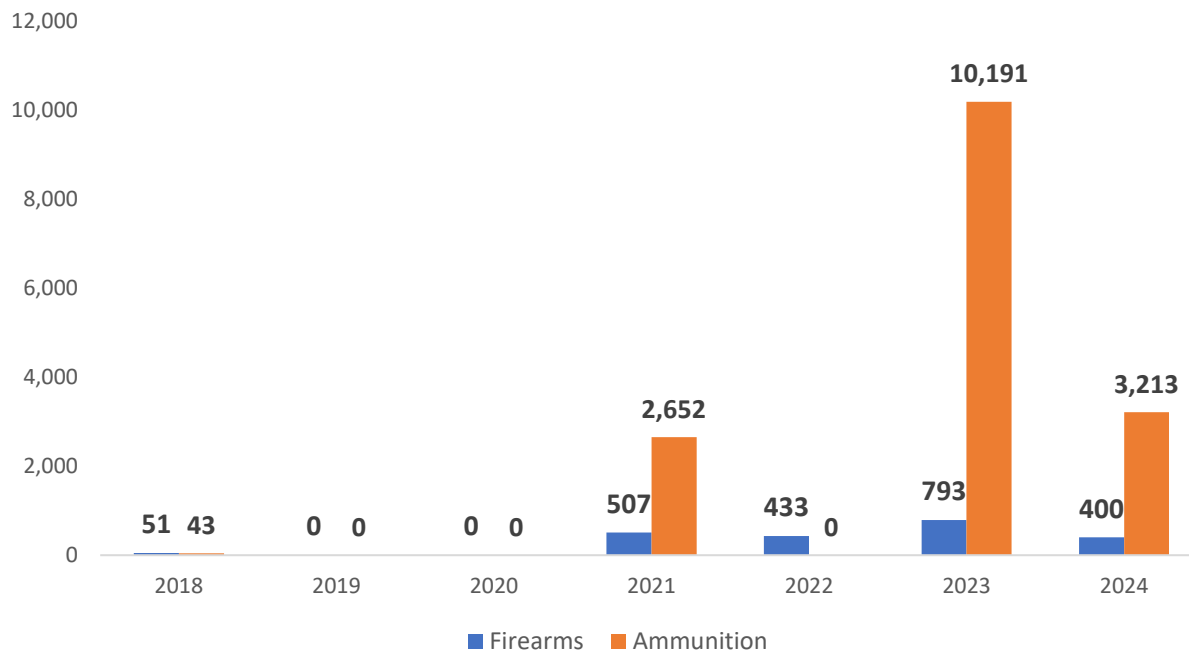
By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

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

- Awareness-raising activities were conducted with pyrotechnic sellers and ammunition producers during the reporting period.
 - No awareness activities were reported targeting licensed firearm holders (private or legal entities).
 - Public awareness campaigns included two initiatives during the summer season including community meetings, leaflet distribution, and educational workshops with the Red Cross.
 - Regional Centers for Border Affairs conducted awareness activities, including cooperation with hunting associations.
 - No legal provisions exist for the legalization or voluntary surrender of illegal weapons;
 - No reductions through legalization or deactivation;
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KPI 11

Firearms and ammunition voluntarily surrendered
2018 - 2024

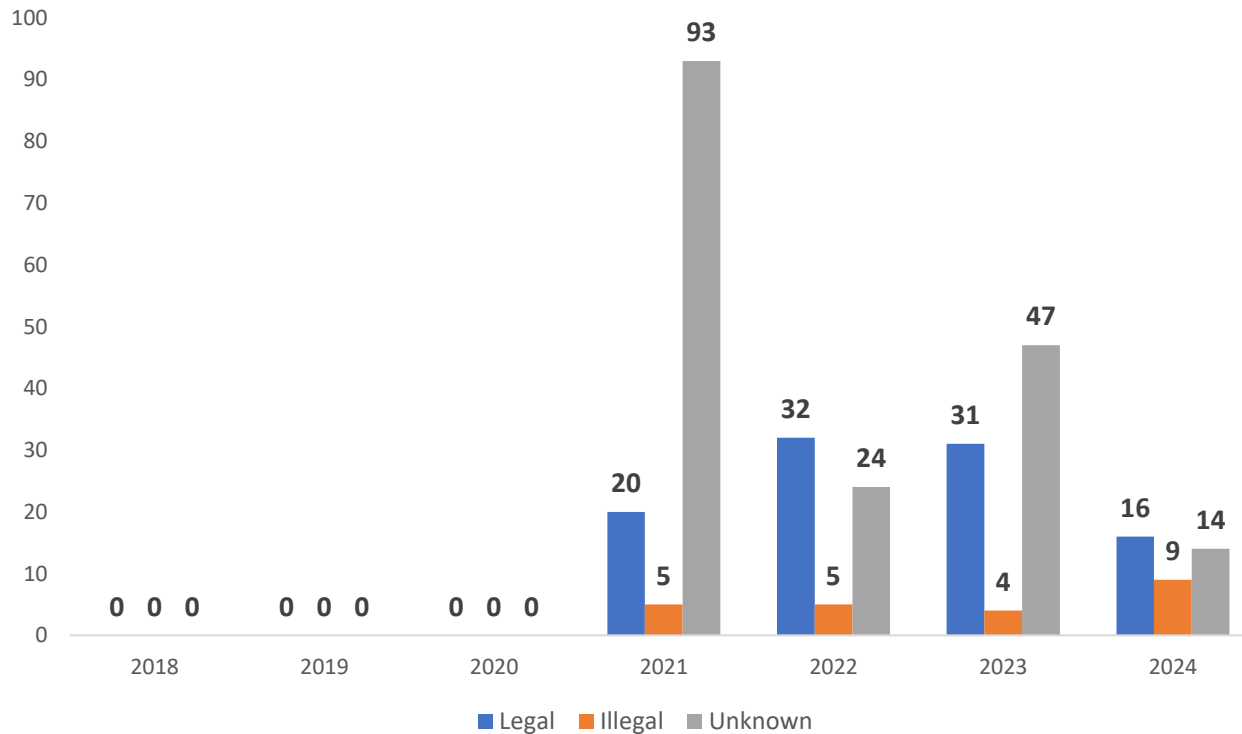


- In 2024, authorities reported 400 firearms and 3,213 rounds of ammunition voluntarily surrendered;
- 793 firearms and 10,191 rounds of ammunition surrendered in 2023;
- Voluntary surrender introduced in 2018 as a measure to reduce illicit firearms: 51 cases reported in 2018, no reported cases in 2019 and 2020 and sharp rise observed in 2021, peaking at 793 in 2023

KPI 10

NUMBER OF FIREARM INCIDENTS

Firearm-related incidents in North Macedonia 2018-2024



- **Firearm-related incidents decreased to 39 in 2024**, down from 82 in 2023;
- **2021** remains the year with the **highest number recorded to date**;
- Incidents with **unknown firearms** were the most common, apart from **2022** – the misuse of **legal firearms** was dominant, with **32 reported cases**;
- Compared to other jurisdictions, **NM consistently reports fewer incidents involving illegally possessed firearms** compared to other categories.



Goals 4&5

(KPI 10 & 11)

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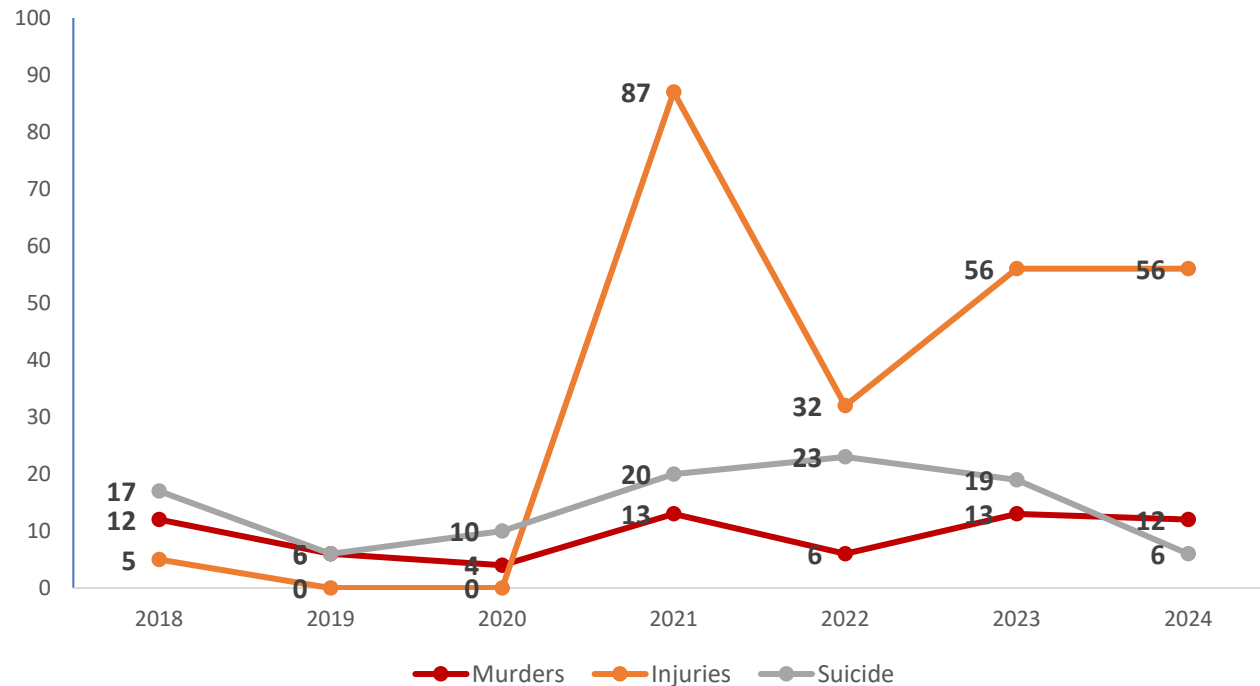
From 2019-2024, SEESAC Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP) recorded:

- **2,291 firearm incidents** reported during the first Roadmap phase (2019–2024), with a **peak in 2023 (478)** and remaining high in 2024 (473);
- Total of **181 cases in criminal context** with 25 organized crime-related incidents (lowest in the region);
- **48 firearm incidents related to domestic violence**, with a peak in 2022 (15 cases);
- Incidents with explosive devices totaled 506 cases (highest in the region), mostly WWI remnants and pyrotechnics, while handguns were the most common.

KPI 10

NUMBER OF VICTIMS

Number of victims affected by the misuse of firearms
2018-2024



- Between **2018–2024**, the number of victims of firearm misuse showed **yearly variations**;
- In **2024**, murder and injury figures remained **relatively consistent** with 2023;
- **Suicide cases involving firearms decreased to 6 in 2024**, down from **19 in 2023**;
- **Injuries** were the most common outcome with **87 cases** in 2021 (peak year), dropping to **32 cases** in 2022;
- **Murders** fluctuated **between 4 and 13 cases annually** over the period.



Goals 6&7

(KPI 12 & 13)

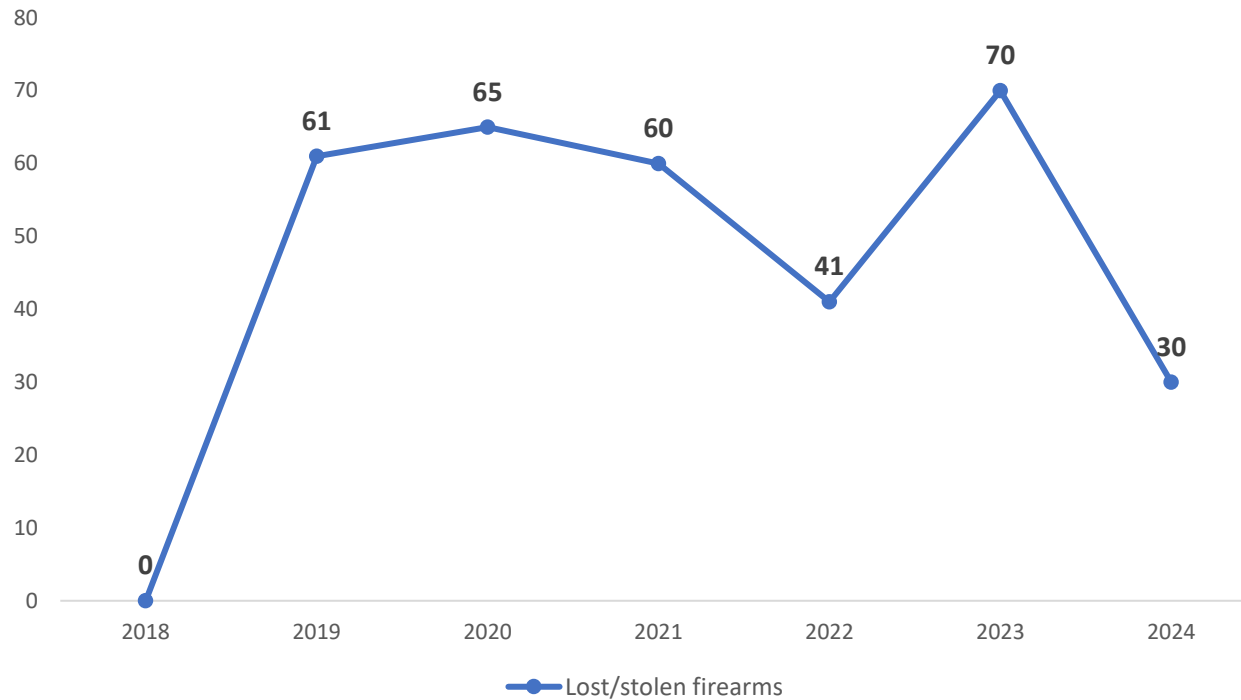
Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

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

- No destruction conducted in the reporting period;
- 1,390 inspections conducted by the Ministry of Interior in 1,173 facilities secured by 342 private security companies and 33 legal entities providing in-house security services;
- 17 inspections of legal entities trading in weapons and ammunition;
- 12 inspections of legal entities trading in explosives, flammable liquids, and gases;

LOST AND STOLEN FIREARMS

Lost and stolen firearms 2018-2024



- Reporting began in 2019, with a relatively high initial figure of 61 cases;
- Number of cases showed minor fluctuations over the years - 41 cases in 2022, increase to 70 in 2023 and a decrease to 30 in 2024;



THANK YOU!

**South Eastern and Eastern Europe
Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms
and Light Weapons (SEESAC)**

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