

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

Monitoring Framework

(13th Progress Reports)

Tirana, 12 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 the regional and jurisdictions' 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.

- Relevant **laws regulating weapons and civil use of explosives** are partially harmonized with the EU Acquis;
- **Law on state control of international transfers of military goods and technologies and goods of dual-use** is also reported as partially harmonised with the EU Acquis;
- Relevant law regulating **supervision of pyrotechnic articles** is reported partially harmonized;
- **Criminal Code** is reported partially harmonized with the Firearms Protocol – inter-institutional consultations continued during reporting period;
- New Law on the **regulation of production, trade, research and development of firearms, ammunition and military equipment and technology** adopted in 2024



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 active role in planning, coordination and monitoring of SALW Strategy (2019 – 2024);
- Initiated work on new strategy and action plan (2025 onward), starting with assessment of previous strategy;
- **Firearms Focal Point (FFP)** established (2023) as a permanent unit within the State Police General Directorate while in 2024 it continued its further positioning, active support to investigations and capacity building;
- **FFP** actively exchanged information with **EUROPOL (via SIENA)**, **WB jurisdictions**, and **EU member states**



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.

- **Access to iARMS** recently provided for FFP through INTERPOL
 - Participation in intelligence and operational phase of **JAD SEE 2024** was reported;
 - **Progress toward accreditation** of the Ballistics Examination Sector continued through the approval of five standard procedures, and ongoing work regarding **validation and calibration processes.**
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KPI 3

Illegal possession of FAE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Reported cases during the reporting period	386	479	534	392	481	328	298
Reported individuals during the reporting period	249	449	514	390	359	249	239
Dismissed charges against individuals	23	23	22	43	45	27	18
Solved with conviction (adjudicated)	197	123	180	272	335	0	191
Solved in another way	No data	24	0	No data	3	0	0

KPI 3

Trafficking of FAE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Reported cases during the reporting period	34	13	13	15	14	21	14
Reported individuals during the reporting period	35	8	12	28	3	9	8
Dismissed charges against individuals	1	0	0	5	0	0	3
Solved with conviction (adjudicated)	3	5	10	9	8	0	5
Solved in another way	No data	0	0	No data	0	0	0



Goal 3

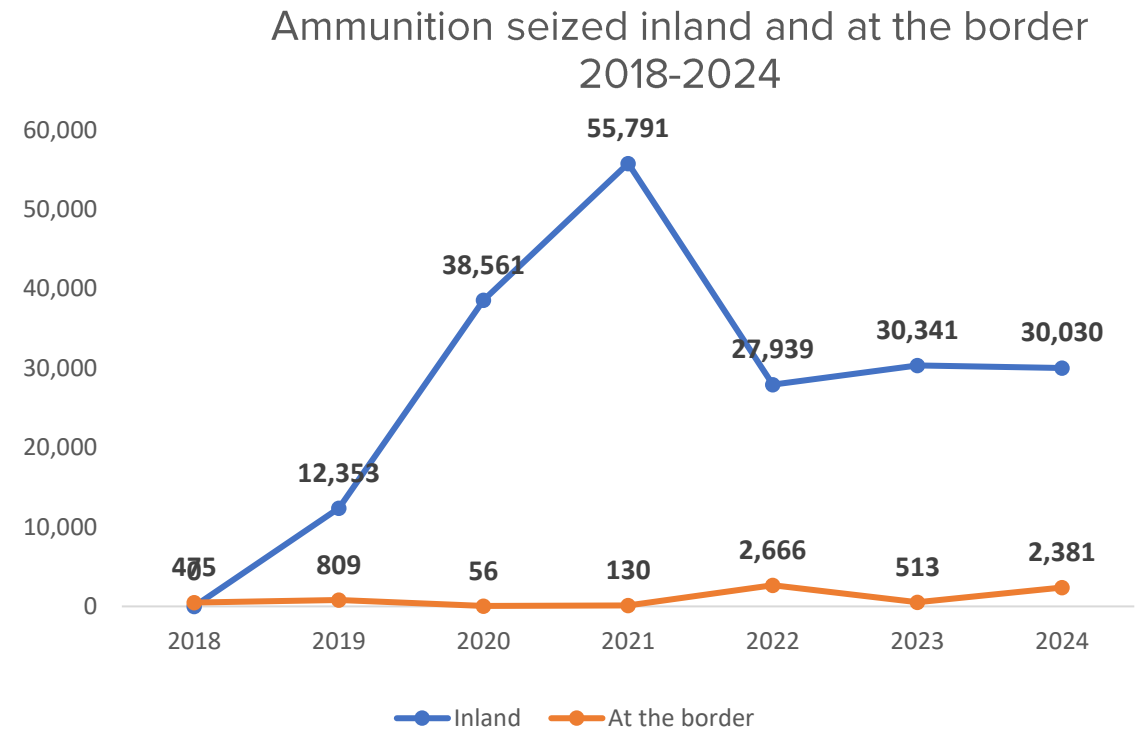
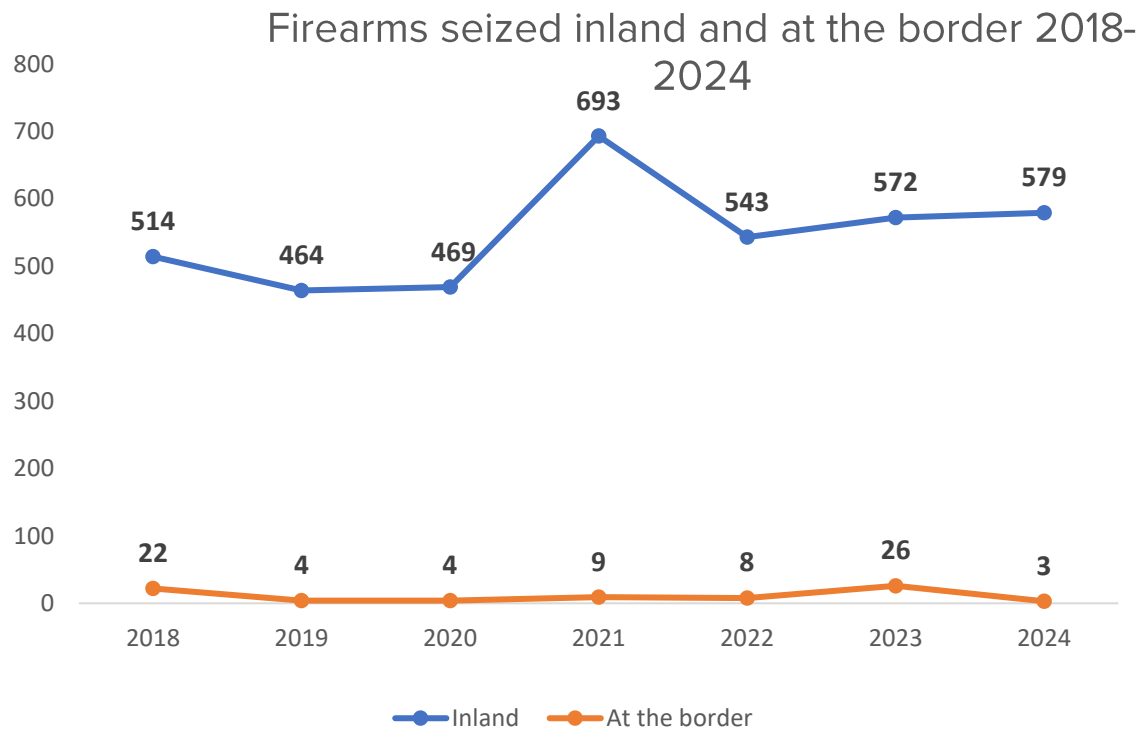
(KPI 4, 6 & 9)

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:
 - Specialised equipment, trainings, workshops;
 - Enhanced K-9 capacities in detecting weapons and ammunition;
 - Improved detection capacities of trafficking through parcels;
- Continued cooperation in countering trafficking of firearms with INTERPOL, EUROPOL, and FRONTEX.
- Gaps and needs assessment of the capacity to detect FAE by the Albanian Customs Administration.
- **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





Goals 4&5

(KPI 10 & 11)

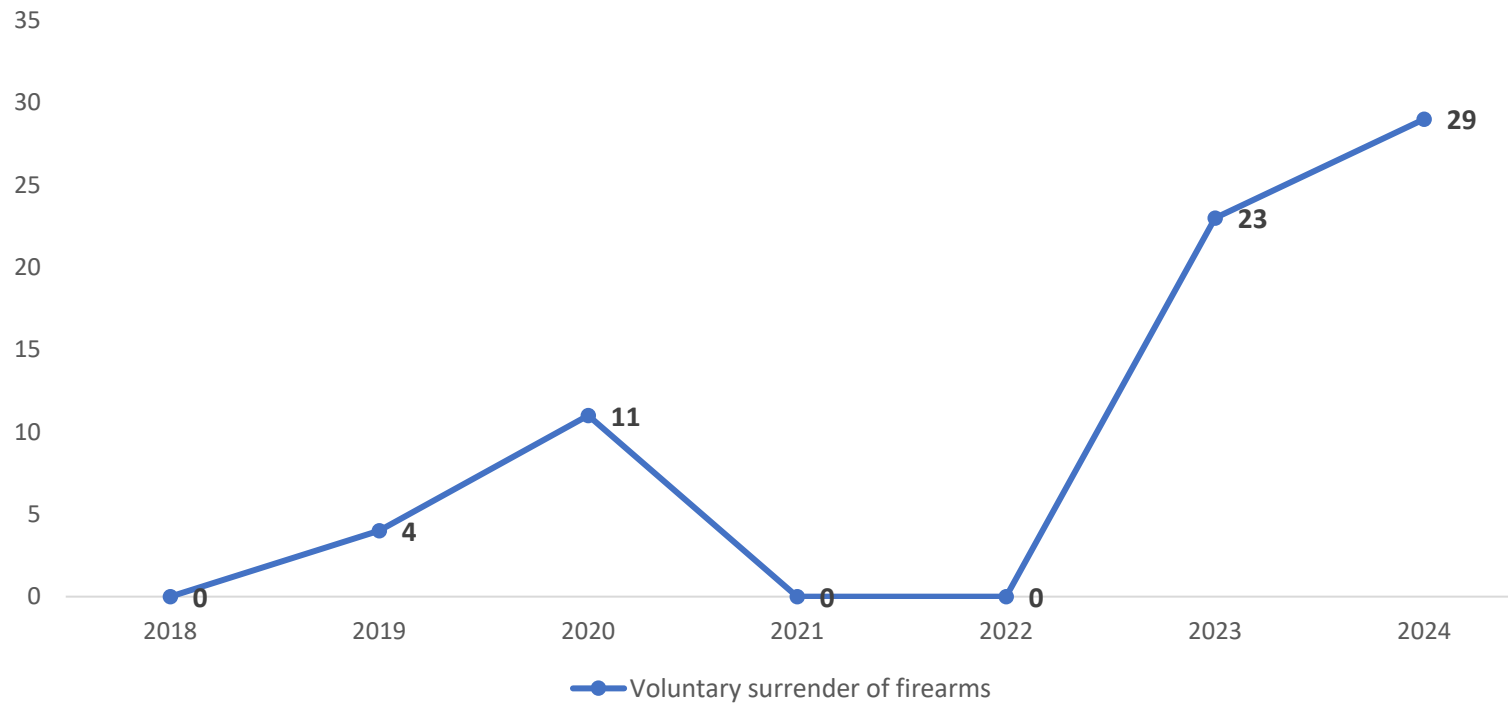
By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

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

- Ongoing **awareness raising, outreach, and education** on firearms/SALW targeting general population in high-risk cities and youth on gender-based violence via traditional and social media channels;
- **29 voluntarily surrendered firearms** in 2024 – **highest number since 2018**
- No voluntary surrender of ammunition reported;
- No reductions through legalization or deactivation;
- Progress was reported on deactivation center: equipment delivered; infrastructure works ongoing;

KPI 11

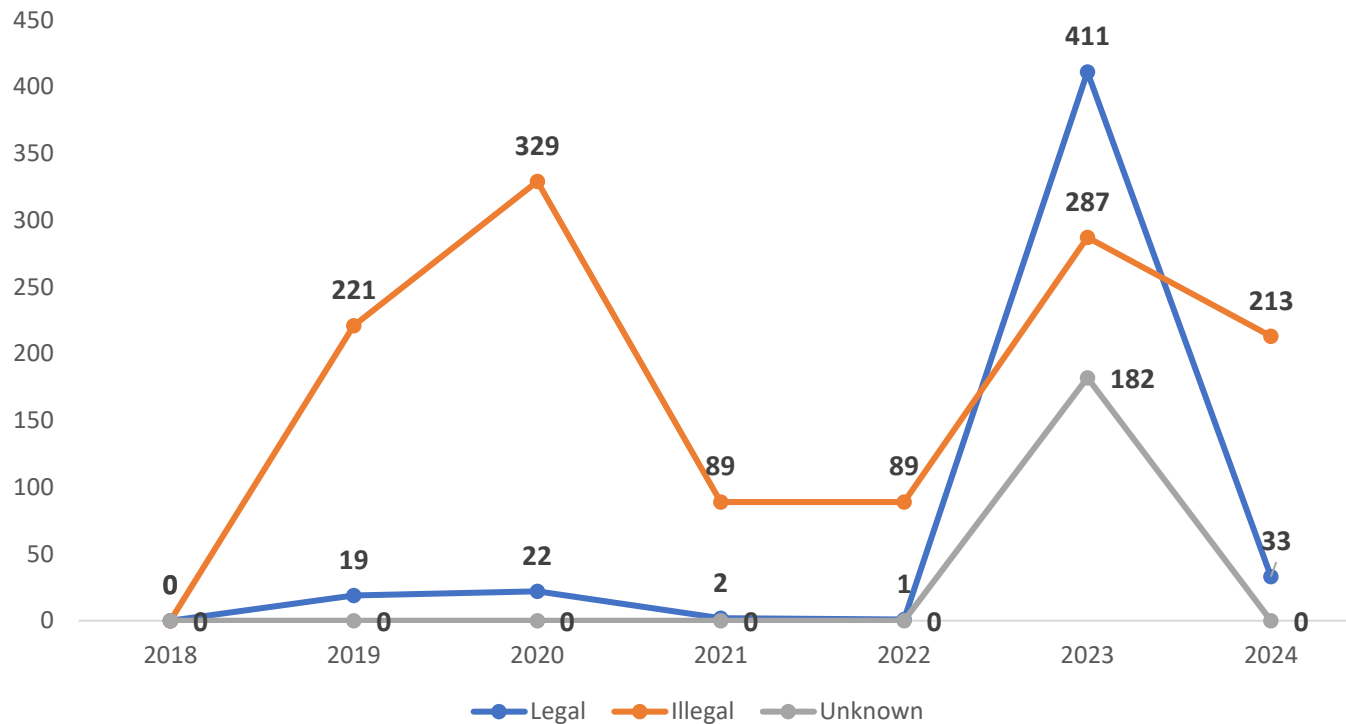
Voluntarily surrendered firearms 2018 - 2024



KPI 10

NUMBER OF FIREARM INCIDENTS

Firearm-related incidents 2018-2024



- 246 incidents reported in 2024, down from 880 in 2023;
- 213 incidents involved illegally possessed firearms, and 33 legally owned firearms in 2024 showing a significant decrease in incidents involving firearms in legal possession;
- For the period 2018-2024 – most incidents linked to illegal firearm;
- Spike was observed in 2023 – most incidents committed with legal firearms.



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.

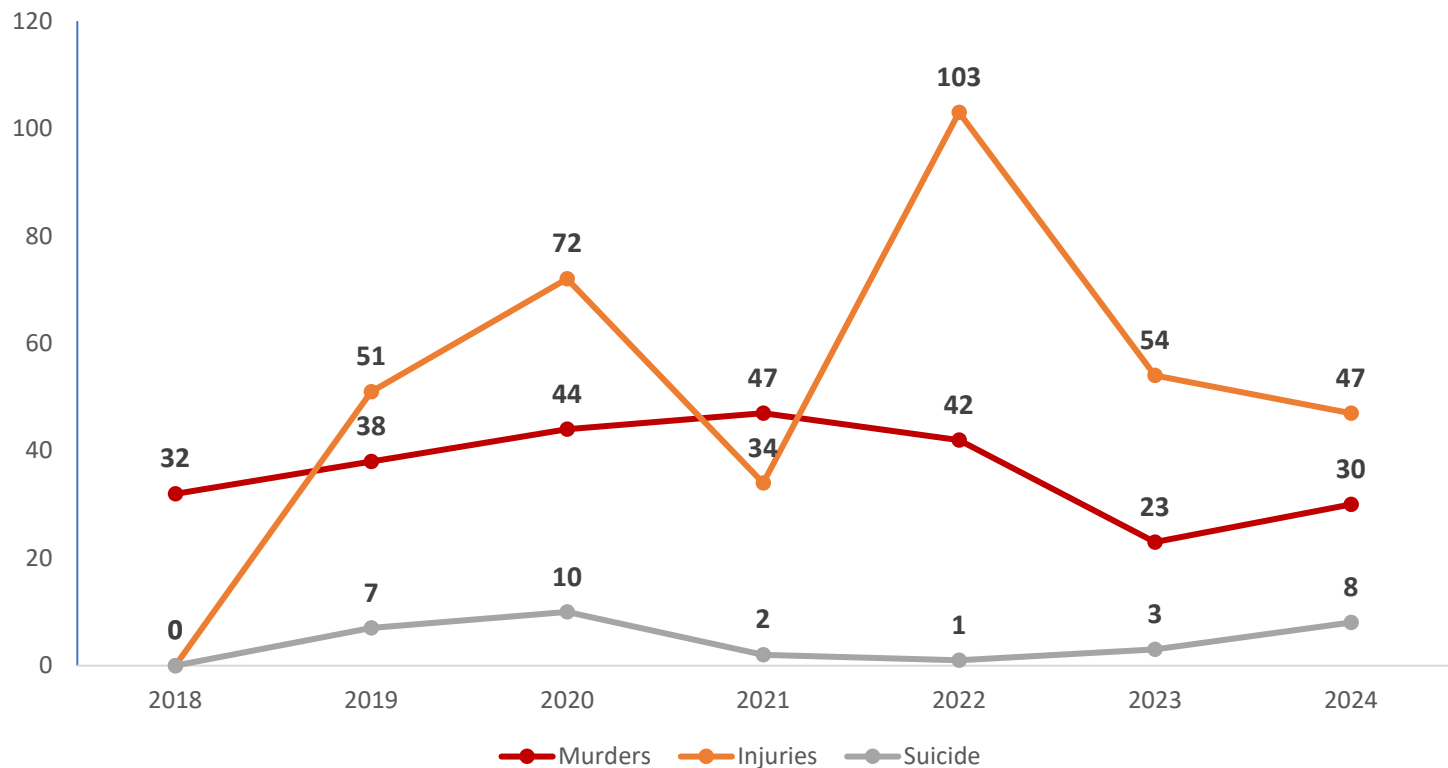
From 2019-2024, SEESAC Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP) recorded:

- AVMP recorded 2,180 firearm-related incidents in Albania, with 459 cases in the criminal context;
- 243 incidents linked to **organized crime** were reported (highest in the region).
- 129 firearm incidents related to **domestic violence total, rising from 14 in 2019 to 29 in 2024;**
- Incidents with **handguns** were the most common – 641 cases (29%), followed by automatic/military-grade weapons (350 cases);

KPI 10

NUMBER OF VICTIMS

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



- Increase in murders and suicides compared to 2023;
- **Men** accounted for most victims in all categories;
- No disaggregated data reported on **legal vs. illegal firearm use** in 2024 incidents.



Goals 6&7

(KPI 12 & 13)

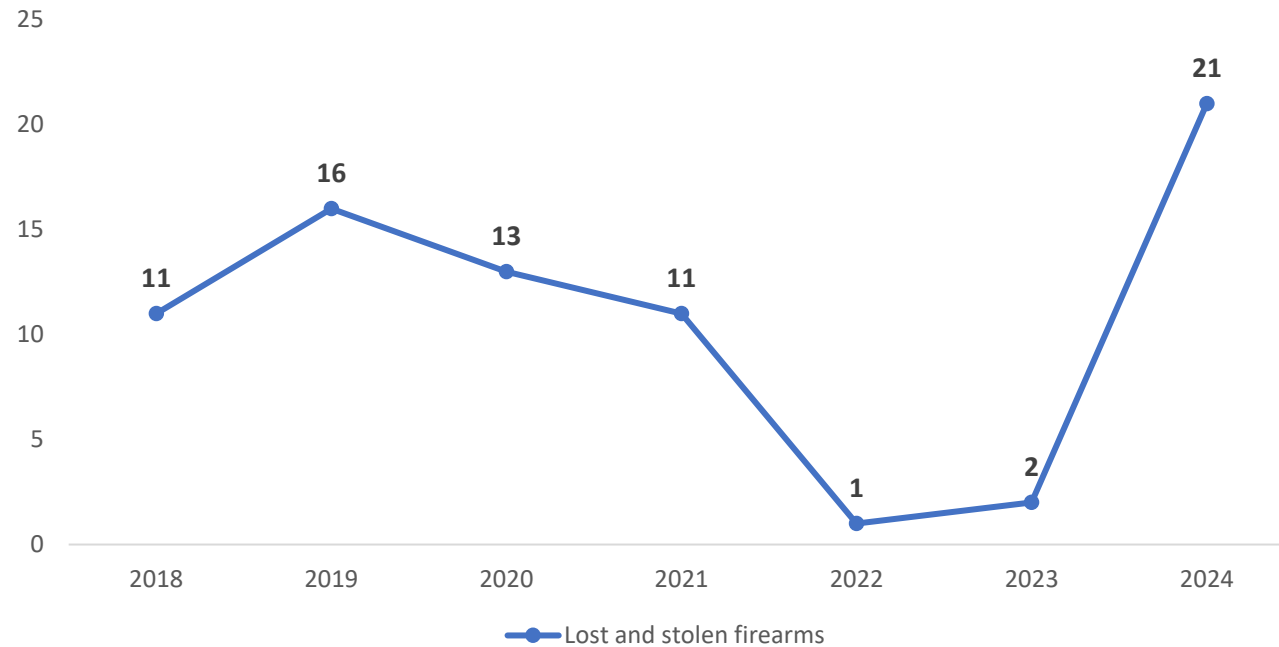
Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

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

- No destruction conducted in the reporting period.
- Inspections of legal and private entities continued, with significant increase in inspections of private entities compared to 2023 (93 → 180).
- Work on reconstruction projects (designs) for 13 SALW storage facilities reported completed.

LOST AND STOLEN FIREARMS

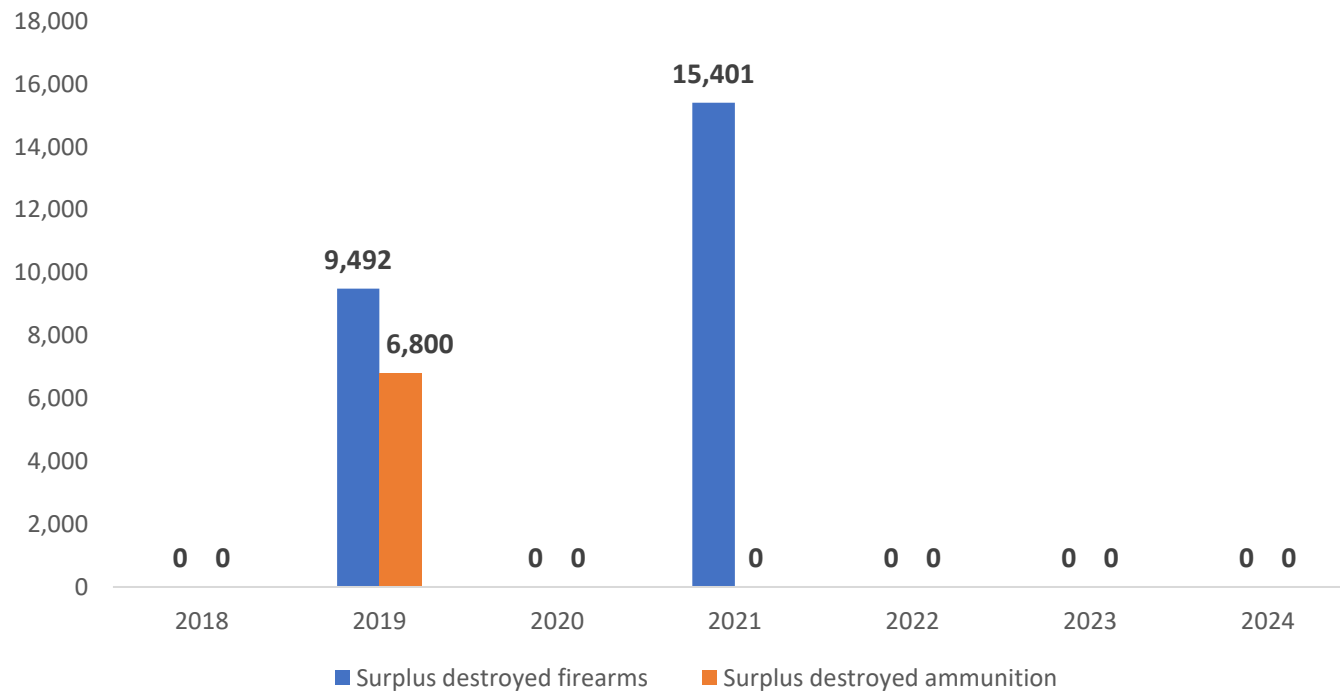
Lost and stolen firearms 2018-2024



- The numbers remained low and consistent over the first four years;
- Declining trend in 2022 and 2023;
- Increasing in 2024 to 21 cases;

KPI 12

Firearms and ammunition surplus destroyed 2018-2024



- Between 2018-2024, a total of 6,888 surplus ammunition and 24,893 firearms destroyed.



THANK YOU!

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

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