



SEESAC

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

AR/014

01 August 2003

SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT 14 PRELIMINARY SALW SURVEY REPORT FOR MACEDONIA

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 5 - SALW Collection
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 3 - Information Management SG 4 – Project Support SG 8 – Research Activities

Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 01 August 2003. The Geneva based Small Arms Survey has been conducting a comprehensive survey of the SALW problem in Macedonia over the last six months. This is based on the technical methodology that they developed during their recent Small Arms Baseline Assessment (SABA)¹ for UNDP Kosovo. SEESAC have provided financial assistance and technical advice to the Small Arms Survey to expand this methodology to include additional information that covers 1) the impact of SALW on economic development; 2) community perceptions on what type of voluntary, or forced, surrender programmes would be supported by individuals; and 3) the community and national capacities for the collection and destruction of SALW.

The preliminary findings have now been released to the UNDP SALW Control in Macedonia (SACIM) Project to assist them in planning an appropriate intervention strategy. The full report will be published later this year, and copies should be requested from UNDP SACIM or the Small Arms Survey. Interesting information obtained from this SALW Survey includes:

- ❑ There are an **estimated 110,000 to 170,000 illegal SALW in circulation** in Macedonia².
- ❑ SALW possession is evenly split by ethnicity.
- ❑ 15.6% of the population admit to holding a firearm.
- ❑ 89% of gunshot victims are male.
- ❑ **57% of the population stated that they would acquire guns legally** if given the opportunity.
- ❑ **Only 36% of all respondents believe that the forthcoming national amnesty will be successful.**



As a result of this cooperation between the Small Arms Survey and SEESAC it is hoped that this Macedonia SALW Survey will become the base model for all future SALW Survey activities. It is of paramount importance that a

¹ Kosovo and the Gun, A Baseline Assessment of SALW in Kosovo, Small Arms Survey, June 2003.

² Error Margin of +/- 3.2%.

SEESAC

comprehensive, logical and structured SALW Survey be the first stage of any SALW related intervention by the international community. Functional analysis of a SALW programme identifies that initial data has a major influence on programme success; yet no SALW programme to date has ever started intervention planning based on such a comprehensive review of information that has been gathered during the this particular SALW Survey.

A SALW Survey should be considered to be a distinct operational task with the aim of ***'determining the nature and extent of SALW proliferation and impact within a region, nation or community in order to provide accurate data and information for a safe, effective and efficient intervention by an appropriate organisation.'***

The findings of the Macedonia SALW Survey have determined that a SALW Survey should, in future, consist of three components:

- ❑ **Small Arms Distribution Assessment (SADA).** This collects data on the type, quantity, ownership, distribution and movement of SALW within the country or region, together with an analysis of indigenous resources available to respond to the problem;
- ❑ **Small Arms Impact Survey (SAIS).** This collects data on the impact of SALW on the community and social and economic development; and
- ❑ **Small Arms Perception Survey (SAPS).** This collects qualitative information on the attitudes of the local community to SALW and possible interventions.

The knowledge gained during the Macedonia SALW Survey is now being used to develop the Regional Micro-Disarmament Standard (RMDS) on SALW Survey; Survey Protocols currently being developed by the Small Arms Survey will support this 'standard'. These 'protocols' will be available to all stakeholders wishing to conduct a logical and structured SALW Survey. SEESAC believes that the development of these 'protocols' will be of benefit, not only to future SALW programmes in the region, but also, potentially, to future SALW programmes globally.



Adrian Wilkinson
SEESAC Team Leader

Office: +381 11 244 2902
Mobile: +381 63 217 350
Fax: +381 11 254 351
E Mail: adrian.wilkinson@undp.org
URL: www.seesac.org