

COORDINATING AND HARMONISING REGIONAL PROJECTS - CHALLENGES FACED AND LESSONS LEARNED

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SEESAC and SALW Control in SEE

- SEESAC joint initiative of the UNDP and the RCC since 2002
- Mandate = support all international and national stakeholders by strengthening national and regional capacity to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and thus contribute to enhanced stability, security and development in South Eastern and Eastern Europe.
- Holistic approach to SALW control



is the successor of



SEESAC and SALW Control in SEE

- Regional ownership
 - *Regional Steering Group*
 - *National SALW Focal Points*
 - *National SALW Commissions*
- Political support and commitments
 - RCC
 - SEECP
 - SEDM
- Technical capacity

RASR Initiative

- Launched in 2009 in Croatia and inspired by the U.S. government
- **Members:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia.
- **Steering committee:** International Trust Fund (ITF); NATO Support Agency (NSPA); SEESAC; RACVIAC; Small Arms Survey
- **Key partners:** US DoS Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement; DTRA, OSCE, RCC, Swiss Verification Center, EUCOM
- **Key activities:**
 - 5 Workshops to date
 - Numerous publications (Small Arms Survey)

RASR Priority Area

1. National and regional policy;
2. Infrastructure;
3. Training, Education and Capacity Building;
4. Sharing of information and Best Practices;
5. Standardization

Priority Issues (1-2)

- **National and regional policy**
- Problems: lack of support from national policy makers; variations of national laws and policies; lack of donor coordination; low level of trust between governments
- Solution: regional meetings of national stakeholders with an input from experts
- **Infrastructure**
- Problem: Lack of funds; lack of cooperation
- Solution: Possible destruction in regional destruction centers

Priority Issues (3-5)

- **Training, Education and Capacity Building**
 - Physical Security and Stockpile Management
 - SEESAC, ITF, RACVIAC courses
- **Sharing of Information and Best Practices**
 - A central repository for best practices, lessons learned, and related documents in all the regional languages
- **Standardization**
 - National Focal Points, Compendium (SEESAC)

6th RASR Workshop

- The focus audience of the Workshop/Meeting will be the politico-strategic officials, namely deputy and assistant ministers of defense. The delegations will also include technical experts.
- The next Workshop will be organized in a different format, where more focus would be placed upon cooperation and informal meetings on a specific topic/s.

RASR Initiative: Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned

National and regional coordination continues to pose a problem, as well as the question of trust between governments

- Continued organization of regional workshops and exchange of information and best practices
- Workshop with different audiences and content → from technical-operational to politico-strategic level

Infrastructure improvement and cooperation to be advanced

- Information regarding existing facilities and their capacities
- **Strengthening coordination and trust between politico-strategic level of governments in order to utilize the existing regional facilities more efficiently**

Resources and Communication

- PSSM Best practice cards; PSSM Technical glossary; Explosive Safety Calculators; MANPADS
- *Media Package* will be developed and made available on the RASR website which would enable journalists and other interested parties to download a comprehensive tool

OVERALL CHALLENGE REMAINS REGIONAL OWNERSHIP

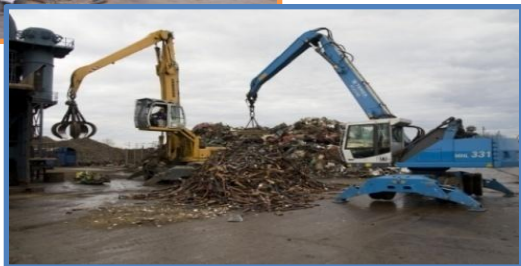
European Union Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP

Support for SEESAC arms control activities
in the Western Balkans:

- ❖ SALW Destruction (CRO; SRB)
- ❖ SALW Collection and Awareness Raising (CRO; SRB)
- ❖ Storage Upgrades (MNE; BiH; CRO)
- ❖ Regional Stockpile Management training
- ❖ Marking, tracing and registration of weapons

Destruction

- 2010 - 28,285 pieces of SALW destroyed in Serbia
- 2011/2012 - 28,434 pieces destroyed in Croatia
- 267,646 pieces of weapons destroyed since 2002



Storage Upgrade

- “Taraš”, Montenegro
- “Murat”, Croatia.
- Pending: three storage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina; three storage sites in Serbia



Stockpile Management Training

- Best practices in stockpile management techniques
- Planning and managing of stockpile locations
- Inventory management and accounting control measures
- Transport security



Marking, Tracing and Registration

- Regional seminar
- Support to the Ministries of Interior of Montenegro and FYR Macedonia establishing and upgrading their respective registration systems



Collection and Awareness Raising

- Collection of unwanted weapons, explosive devices, ordinances and associated ammunition; promotion of legalization through registration



Arms Export Controls

- 30 comprehensive National Reports on Arms Exports published, each divulging a high-level of detail by EU standards
- All countries currently publish their national reports: BiH (2005), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2006), Montenegro (2007), Serbia (2007), Albania (2009), and Croatia (2010).
- **WB Regional Report on Arms Exports** modeled on the EU Arms Exports Report
- Improved data collection

Regional Information Exchange on Arms Exports Process:

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

- legislative harmonization and implementation; arms embargo destinations; national exports policies; types of goods exported; and denial of licenses
- 3-year history, 2-3 events annually



Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition
Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia

- *October 2006*: Paraćin ammunition depot accident » loss of 1,300 of ammunition; 80,000 Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs) to be secured; 20 civilians injured; large area of land destroyed



- *June 2011*: Official request from MoD Serbia to UNDP and OSCE
- *September 2011*: the joint OSCE-UNDP assessment mission

- ❖ Human Security Improved through the upgrade of safety and security of ammunition sites
- ❖ Counter-proliferation Enhanced by reducing the quantity and enhancing security of surplus stockpiles
- ❖ Demilitarisation Capacities Improved through the upgrade of infrastructure at TRZ Kragujevac
 - CASM officially launched in February 2012
 - CASM Executive Committee meeting in July 2012



CASM ACTIVITIES (1)

based on the assessment mission:

❖ SURPLUS AMMUNITION DISPOSAL

- Technical and infrastructure support for the demilitarization of surplus stocks of white phosphorous filled ammunition, and the subsequent disposal of the white phosphorous (total of aprox. 1,033 tonnes in 159,173 pieces of ammunition)
- High priority disposal of 110 tonnes napalm powder filled ammunition

❖ Infrastructure improvement to the existing demilitarization facilities at the TRZ Kragujevac

- Increased safety of demilitarization process  CCTV systems; sprinkler systems; improvement to existing first aid fire fighting facilities; refurbishment of existing breakdown equipment; anti-static floors

SEESAC CASM ACTIVITIES (2)

based on the assessment mission:

❖ Storage Reconstruction - Mrsać and Mirnička Reka
current conditions:



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Trends and Challenges

- Increasingly multi-organizations projects (MONDEM, CASM, SACUP BiH, Belarus)
- Increasingly holistic - combining training, with surplus reduction, physical security
- Decreased funding availability
- Donor coordination and differing approaches
- Translating political commitments into concrete projects
- Transboundary movements of surplus for destruction

THANK YOU!

For more information please visit:

<http://www.seesac.org>

<http://rasrinitiative.org>