I. **Organization and focal point**

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

   a. **Address**
      Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 64
      11000 Belgrade
      Serbia

   b. **Organizational email**
      For official correspondence: seesac@undp.org

   c. **Homepage (relevant website)**
      www.seesac.org/

2. **SALW Focal Point**
   a. **(Name)**
      Ms. Bojana Balon
   b. **Title**
      Project Manager/Head of SEESAC
   c. **Section/Department**
      N/A
   d. **Email**
      bojana.balon@undp.org
   e. **Telephone**
      (+381) 11 415 5300

3. **Applicable (sub)region**
   South Eastern and Eastern Europe

4. **Member States in the (sub)region**
   Albania, Serbia, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Belarus, Ukraine.

5. **General mandate / purpose of the organization**
   SEESAC works to strengthen the capacities of national and regional stakeholders 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. SEESAC functions under the mandate given to it by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

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* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
II. Regional Instruments

6. Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)
   a. title of instrument(s)
      • Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)/firearms and their ammunition in the Western Balkans (Roadmap): https://www.seesac.org/f/docs/publications-salw-control-roadmap/Regional-Roadmap-for-a-sustainable-solution-to-the.pdf

   b. scope, objectives and main provisions of the instrument(s)
      The aim of the SEE RIP is to stop the flow and availability of SALW in the region, consolidate current achievements and support the socio-economic conditions for peace and development in South Eastern and Eastern Europe. At its core, the SEE RIP seeks to provide insight into the ways and means through which the enhancement of regional cooperation in this critical area will be sustained, providing both information-sharing and local (national and regional) standard-setting which is materialized through direct project formulation and implementation.

      The purpose of the Roadmap is to serve as a guiding and consensual document developed and owned by the authorities in Western Balkans, in achieving a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW/firearms, and its ammunition. The Roadmap provides an overall platform for commonly agreed levels of performance, and outlines the commitment required at the strategic, policy and operational level amongst the beneficiaries, building on the political commitment to the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as well as legal obligation stemming from the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

      The Roadmap includes seven goals including ensuring that arms control legislation is in place, fully harmonized with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standardized across the region by 2023. By 2024, the arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans should be evidence-based and intelligence-led, the illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives into, within and beyond the Western Balkans should be significantly reduced, the supply-demand and misuses of firearms should also be reduced through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy and the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession should substantially decrease in the Western Balkans. Additionally, part of the Roadmap goals, the Western Balkans should systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized SALW and ammunition and should significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.
The Western Balkans Roadmap was developed in close cooperation with all relevant institutions of the region under the auspices of the Federal Republic of Germany and SEESAC’s technical support, and coordinated with the United Kingdom, France and the European Union.

c. mandated function of your organization under regional instrument(s)

SEESAC’s role as the SEE SALW focal point and as outlined in the Regional Implementation Plan, envisions continued support to SALW programs in South East Europe. SEESAC’s primary responsibilities are to:

- collect and disseminate information on the progress towards implementing the revised SEE RIP;
- assist beneficiaries in the region, and other appropriate stakeholders with the development of project proposals;
- assist in the matching of donors with identified needs of the recipients;
- serve as the focal point for linkage and cooperation with other relevant regional initiatives;
- assist in assessment formulation and strategy development;
- provide impetus for national coordination and implementation;
- assist in the development and implementation of SALW awareness raising, including risk education work, training and capacity-building programmes for national security/police officials;
- facilitate coordination on SALW issues amongst governments, NGOs and other stakeholders, as well as contributing to coordination between security and police forces;
- provide technical assistance for the development and implementation of SALW control programs;
- monitor and report progress on addressing the SALW issue, including the identification of on-going resource mobilization needs by the region;
- mobilize and make increased use of technical expertise and financial resources from those SEE beneficiaries which have progressed most on SALW programmes;
- provide project development, technical advisory, project monitoring and evaluation support to the EU, UNDP, OSCE and other stakeholders within South East and Eastern Europe;
- facilitate the identification, systematic organization and sharing of know-how from the SEE region towards other regions.

Furthermore, SEESAC is coordinating and monitoring the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap implementation supported through EU Council Decision 1788/2018 and performs the functions of the Secretariat of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). As the MPTF Secretariat, SEESAC is responsible for the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Trust Fund, providing technical and management support to the MPTF Steering Committee. SEESAC as MPTF Secretariat is not part of the Steering Committee and does not have the right to vote.

d. requirement for national reports under regional instrument(s)

The Western Balkans authorities have agreed to measure the progress of the WB’s Roadmap’s implementation through commonly agreed concrete and measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The periodic (biannual) monitoring of progress against the jointly agreed KPIs and coordination of the implementation of the Roadmap by six
The monitoring framework follows the 14 KPIs and the 7 Roadmap Goals. Four progress reports have been submitted as of May 2021 covering period 1 January 2018 – 30 June 2020, while the finalization of the 5th progress report covering the period 1 July-31 December 2020 is expected in July 2021.

e. **national focal points for your organization under regional instrument(s)**

SALW Commissions (inter-ministerial bodies coordinating all SALW-related policies) and relevant institutions engaged in arms control in Southeast Europe.

f. **regional action plan under regional instrument(s)**

- Western Balkans jurisdictions have adopted SALW Strategies and 6 individual action plans for the implementation of the Roadmap. See: https://www.seesac.org/Strategic-Documents_1/

III. **UN Programme of Action**

7. **Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action**

The implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan and WB Roadmap will contribute to compliance by SEE with related international treaties and agreements including the UN Programme of Action. Relevant information also in paragraph 6.c above.

8. **Meetings**

a. **participation in global UN PoA meetings**

SEESAC contributed to the Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action (RevCon3), held in New York (18-29 June 2018) including by organizing, together with the EU, a side event on gender and SALW to showcase current good practices and ongoing efforts to bring gender to the core of SALW policy-making and the innovative tools developed for this purpose and a side event together with German Federal Foreign Office on bringing good practices from the WB Roadmap.

b. **regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization**

i. **frequency and timing of meeting(s) (e.g. once a year in April)**

Since 2014, SEESAC organizes regular (biannually) regional **meetings of SALW Commissions**, which provide an opportunity for sharing of experiences, technical knowledge as well as platform for discussion on common challenges. See: https://www.seesac.org/Regional-Cooperation/.

SEESAC also organizes regularly the **South East Europe Firearms Expert Network (SEEFEN)** meetings (biannually) as well as the meetings of the Western Balkans Firearms Focal Points (FFPs). See: https://www.seesac.org/Marking-and-Tracing-of-SALW/.
SEESAC in quality of the secretariat of the Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) initiative, facilitates workshops to strengthen national capacities and promote regional cooperation and exchange of expertise in South East Europe related to stockpiles management. See: https://www.seesac.org/Stockpile-Security/

ii. timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process

On 1 February 2018, SEESAC organized a High Level Regional Meeting of the Deputy Ministers of Interior and Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Podgorica, Montenegro, upon the initiative and auspices of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and in cooperation with the RCC and the EU. The objective of the meeting was to review progress, and identify remaining gaps in SALW control and formally reinvigorate high level commitments to combat illicit trafficking and proliferation of SALW and their ammunition in the region.

In 2018, two regional meetings of SALW Commissions (28-29 May 2018 and 26-27 November 2018), two SEEFEN meetings (31 May – 1 June 2018 and 20-21 November 2018), one RASR Workshop (9-11 October 2018) were organized.


9. Challenges related to implementation of the PoA for States of your (sub)region

In the Western Balkans, the conflicts during the 1990s, resulted in a high number of unregistered weapons (military and civilian) making these weapons a security threat, due to their misuse and trafficking, for the entire Western Balkans region and the EU. Based on the findings of the latest regional SALW Survey, between 2012 and 2016, firearms were misused to commit a range of different criminal acts across the region. The majority of criminal offences were committed with illegal firearms. Firearms were the most frequently used means of committing homicides between 2012 and 2016 in majority of the region. Men comprise the vast majority of the victims of firearm-related homicides. Firearm-related suicides are also common across the region, and, where the data is available, men are the overwhelming majority of the victims.

10. Targets/goals for States of your (sub)region and/or your organization, which are consistent with PoA implementation.

The WB Roadmap has seven goals, which address all functional areas of arms control and these goals have been incorporated into the relevant Small Arms Light Weapons Control strategies and action plans in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans:

- Goal 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.
- Goal 2. By 2024, ensure that arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans are evidence based and intelligence led.
- Goal 3. By 2024, significantly reduce illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkans.
• Goal 4. By 2024, significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.
• Goal 5. By 2024, substantially decrease the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession in the Western Balkans.
• Goal 6. Systematically decrease the surplus and destroy seized small arms and light weapons and ammunition.
• Goal 7. Significantly decrease the risk of proliferation and diversion of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

IV. International assistance

11. International assistance (including regional assistance)
   a. assistance provided to member states during the reporting period

At the time of submission of this report and covering the reporting period, the following EU Council Decisions and other projects funded by US State Department were under implementation by UNDP SEESAC providing financial support for implementation of activities in Southeast Europe (including on WB Roadmap implementation) related to arms control:

• EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/2113 amending Decision (CFSP) 2016/2356 in support of SEESAC disarmament and arms control activities in South-East Europe - EUR 6 508 136;

• EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 in support of SEESAC for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans - EUR 4 002 587,52;

• EU Council Decision 2019/2111 in support of SEESAC disarmament and arms control activities in South East Europe – EUR 11 819 605,20;

• Enhancement of security and safety of the “Duvanište” SALW and related ammunition storage location of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia and enhancement of SALW Control Security Measures, SALW and ammunition storages in Albania supported by US State Department– USD 1 700 000.

A Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Roadmap Multi-Partner Trust Fund was established by UNDP, UNODC and the UN MPTF Office as a key funding mechanism for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for SALW Control in the Western Balkans. The Trust Fund supports projects implemented in the area of SALW control that contribute to the achievement of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap goals and are in line with the priorities of the targeted jurisdictions. As of December 2020, 15,9mln USD had been mobilized by the MPTF with funding contributions from Germany, UK, Netherlands, Sweden, France, Norway

The following projects are under implementation with this funding support:

1. Albania: Strengthening control, administration and social attitudes towards SALW
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT)
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Prevention and illicit arms reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina (project PILLAR)
5. Kosovo: Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)
6. Kosovo and North Macedonia: Cross-border integrated institutional approach towards combating illicit arms trafficking
7. Montenegro: Advancing the capacities of the Police Directorate In the field of custody chain, crime scene investigations and the forensic laboratory in the field of operations and investigations in detection and trafficking of explosives criminality
8. Serbia: Advancing the capacities of the ministry of interior in the SALW-control-related field, Phase II
9. Regional: Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking
10. Regional: Support for Increased International Cooperation in Criminal Matters

More detailed information on assistance provided under the WB SALW Control Roadmap implementation can be found under the latest update by international and regional organizations on their contributions: https://www.seesac.org/f/docs/4th-Regional-Progress-Report/Contribution-by-regional-and-international-organizations.pdf.

b. needs for international assistance - technical/financial contributions

Contributions to the Multi Partner Trust Fund may be accepted from governments, regional bodies, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses, foundations and individuals. Contributions will be unearmarked and will be made based on a Standard Administrative Agreement. See: https://www.seesac.org/f/docs/publications-salw-control-roadmap/Trust-Fund-Brochure_20.01.2020_WEB_pp.pdf

V. Relevant issues

12. Gender-specific considerations

SEESAC has made integration of gender perspective central to its work in support of the authorities in SEE. Both the SEE RIP and the WB Roadmap place specific importance to gender and its integration into policy development and implementation on arms control. Support provided by SEESAC in the recent years include:

- Data collection and research on specific risks related to the presence and use of firearms in the context of domestic violence in SEE;
- Awareness raising on the dangers of misuse of firearms in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence;
- Training to relevant institutions and development of tools for professionals;
- Support to policy and legislation developments, including review of legislation through gender screening. This is particularly related development of SALW Control Strategies and Actions plans.
- Supporting convergence between small arms control policies and measures to combat domestic violence.

a. policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization

- Gender and SALW in SEE: https://www.seesac.org/f/docs/Armed-Violence/Gender_and_SALW_publication_eng-web.pdf
The purpose of this study is to contribute to increased gender responsiveness of policies regulating SALW control policies in South East Europe (SEE) and increase awareness about the linkages between gender and small arms. It is mainly intended for key stakeholders, as well as the wider expert public, and identifies the main trends and gaps in policy response. By building on these findings, the study proposed a practical tool intended to support informed and evidence based gender sensitive policy development, and in doing so to contribute to the capacity development of SALW policy makers in the SEE region and the overall effectiveness of SALW policies.

The objectives of the study are:
1. To map gender concerns related to SALW in general, with particular focus on SEE (Chapter 2),
2. To assess if and to what degree the gender perspective is integrated into SALW policies in SEE (legislative and strategic frameworks), as well as to assess whether SALW issues are addressed in gender equality policies and policies against gender-based violence (Chapter 3),
3. To identify best practices in policy making which incorporate gender issues into SALW control, as well as to map enabling factors conducive to these initiatives (Chapters 3 and 4),
4. To provide evidence-based recommendations and a practical tool for integrating the gender perspective into the SALW legislative and strategic frameworks (Chapter 5).


*The Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence in South East Europe: Fast Facts* provides an overview of data on firearm-related homicide committed by family members and intimate partners, the characteristics of the firearm-related incidents committed within the domestic context, women's and men's perception of safety with the presence of firearms at home, as well as the institutional response to the misuse of firearms in domestic violence. In doing so, Fast Facts documents the risks linked to firearm misuse in the domestic context and its disproportionate effects on women, particularly in the context of intimate partner violence.

Data used in Fast Facts is extracted from multiple sources:

1. **Distribution and Impact Surveys:** collected and analyzed data in order to identify trends in the distribution of small arms and the impact of their misuse on the citizens in the region, both on women and men. The data was collected for the period 2012-2016.
2. **Perception Survey:** In November and December 2017, SEESAC conducted an online survey to obtain a better understanding of the public perception of safety and security, on the use and possession of firearms, and on the exposure to firearm violence in SEE. A total of 53,936 respondents participated in the online survey throughout South East Europe.
3. **Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP):** The AVMP monitors firearm-related incidents that have occurred in SEE since 2014. Data is collected daily using local media clippings, online search engines and reports by public institutions of relevant firearm-related incidents, where available. For the purpose of this analysis, 3,970 incident reports spanning from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.


In South East Europe (SEE), as elsewhere, the overwhelming majority of firearms are owned by men. Men also predominantly use and misuse firearms and account for the majority of victims of firearm misuse. This Fast Facts provides a broad overview of the available data on firearm ownership, access to
firearms across security sector institutions, men’s experience and attitudes towards firearms, and men as perpetrators and victims of firearm misuse. It also maps factors that could influence the demand for firearms among men. In doing so, Fact Facts aims to contribute to the ongoing discussions on the social conditioning of these patterns and increase knowledge and awareness of both professionals and the general audience of the specific linkages between men and firearms in SEE.

b. gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period

With funding support provided through European Council Decision 2016/2356, SEESAC comprehensively supported institutions in South East Europe to integrate the gender perspective in SALW control frameworks. In this regard, gender coach programme was delivered to the heads of SALW Commissions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The coaching programme aimed to increase their competences and commitments with respect to gender equality and support them in efforts to boost gender responsiveness of SALW control. This was followed by gender and SALW trainings for SALW Commissions in those three jurisdictions to assist them in development of practical measures to address gendered aspects of small arms. In addition, regional gender and SALW training was delivered to representatives of SALW commissions and MoIs from Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The implementation of the Gender Coach Programme significantly increased capacities of SALW commissions to mainstream gender in their work by equipping them with practical policy making tools and skills. In addition, the programme enhanced gender responsiveness of SALW control policies in these jurisdictions, which is particularly visible in SALW control strategies and action plans developed for the implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. As a result of these efforts and advanced awareness on the necessity of collecting sex disaggregated data, evidence base for development of gender responsive interventions has significantly increased. For instance, in SALW Surveys published in 2019, all data are sex disaggregated, thus providing detailed insights into gender differentiated aspects of firearms possession, use and misuse. Similarly, the framework established for the monitoring of the SALW Control Roadmap contains gender sensitive indicators and captures effects of the implementation of SALW control measures on women and men. Under the EU CD 2018/1788, SEESAC is about to launch the gender coach programme in two more jurisdictions.

Currently, within the framework of the European Council Decision 2018/1788, SEESAC is implementing a thorough gender analysis of legislation and policies relevant for arms control. The analysis aims to assess gender responsiveness of legislation and policies, map gaps in legislative response, and provide recommendations for authorities on how to advance gender responsiveness of respective legislation. Gender responsiveness of legislation is assessed against several main gender concerns related to firearms: linkages between firearms and domestic violence, violence against women and gender based violence; response to gendered aspects of firearms demand, use and misuse – including linkages between specific forms of masculinity and firearms; participation and representation of women in arms control policy/legislation making and implementation and gender-sensitive data collection practices. The analysis has been finalised in North Macedonia and is currently conducted in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro. This is an integral part of the ongoing harmonization of arms-control legislation with the EU regulatory framework and other related international obligations and standards across the region.

c. gender-mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period

In 2020, SEESAC delivered a comprehensive coaching programme on mainstreaming gender in small arms control to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific staff and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa staff. In addition, three gender and SALW knowledge products (Gender and SALW: Fast Facts, The Misuse of Firearms in Domestic
Violence in South East Europe: Fast Facts; Men and Firearms in South East Europe: Fast Facts) were published to enable evidence based SALW control policies in SEE. See: https://www.seesac.org/Publication-Gender-in-security-sector-reform/

13. Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

d. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period

SEESAC’s projects in support of authorities in Southeast Europe contribute directly to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (with a specific focus on targets 16.1 that aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence and death rate everywhere and 16.4. that aims to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows by 2030 and Goal 5 on gender equality.

e. regional indicator(s)

With the adoption of the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap the authorities in the region agreed to monitor and measure progress of its implementation through the below Key Performance Indicators:

1. Number of legal frameworks on arms control throughout the Western Balkans fully harmonized with the EU legislation, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (The Firearms Protocol);

2. Number of evidence based arms control policy documents, developed in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans, that are also addressing needs of men, women, boys and girls;

3. Number of cases, individuals and quantity of misused and trafficked firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) prosecuted and adjudicated in comparison to the number of law enforcement reports on seizures;

4. Number of cases and quantity of FAE seized inland compared to the number of cases and quantity of FAE seized at the borders;

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;

6. Number of FAE for which export licenses were issued by the Western Balkans identified as diverted through post-shipment control procedure;

7. Firearms Focal Points established and operational in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans;

8. Number of inter-institutional cooperation cases at operational level, including investigation, prosecution and pretrial phases;

9. Number of cases of operational cooperation sourced from intelligence information including ballistic intelligence in the fight against firearms related crimes, with authorities in the region, EU member states and agencies as well as international law enforcement agencies;

10. Number of incidents involving firearms and victims affected by the misuse of firearms, disaggregated by gender and age, in each jurisdiction of the Western Balkans;
11. Number of FAE voluntarily surrendered, as well as firearms legalized or deactivated;

12. Number of reported SALW/firearms, ammunition, and explosives confiscated or surplus systematically destroyed;

13. Number of SALW/firearms and their ammunition storage facilities in line with international safety and security standards;

14. Percentage of citizens satisfaction (disaggregated by age and gender) or feeling of safety on armed violence across the Western Balkans.

Majority of these indicators have been included also in the most recent EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking to measure progress in the implementation of this Action Plan.

Additional remarks

Date: 26 May 2021

An MS-Word or PDF version of your completed 2020 report should be sent via e-mail to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by 31 May 2021.