



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe

## OSCE Mission to Skopje

# Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

Project no.: 2600975

Duration: May 2020 to December 2025

Total budget: 8,059,445 EUR

Funds pledged: 4,530,023 EUR

Funding gap: 3,529,422 EUR

Donors:

United States, Germany, European Union, Belgium, France,  
Norway, Slovakia

Beneficiaries: The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, the National SALW Commission, government institutions, and the general public

Gender marker: - 2 - fully gender mainstreamed

Contribution to UN SDG:

SDG 5.2 - Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

SDG 16.1 - Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

SDG 16.4 - Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows

SDG 16.A - Preventing violence and combating terrorism and other crimes

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# Introduction of the SALW Project

## Project Activities

Activity 1 - Establishing project management capacity, reporting, and visibility

Activity 2 - Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

Activity 3 - Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

Activity 4 - Advancing the National SALW Commission's operational and analytical capabilities in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

Activity 5 - Enhancing the awareness-raising capacity of the National SALW Commission and the MoIA on the risk of SALW proliferation and misuse of firearms

Activity 6 - Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation



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# Project Activity

## Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- ❖ Sub-Activity 2.1 Equipment assistance and infrastructure upgrades of the K9 service units at the national and regional level
- ✓ Sub-Activity 2.2 Developing an SOP and updating regulations for K9 deployment on SALW detection
- ✓ Sub-Activity 2.3 Training program on the application of the SOP for the use of K9 capacity in detecting SALW
- ❑ Sub-Activity 2.4 Providing a platform to promote the use of K9 capacities through organizing competitions on national and regional levels
- ❖ Sub-Activity 2.5 Developing a Masterplan on K9 transformation (Management, Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Animal Treatment)
- ❑ Sub-Activity 2.6 Establishing conditions for the implementation of the K9 Masterplan



# Progress and Results

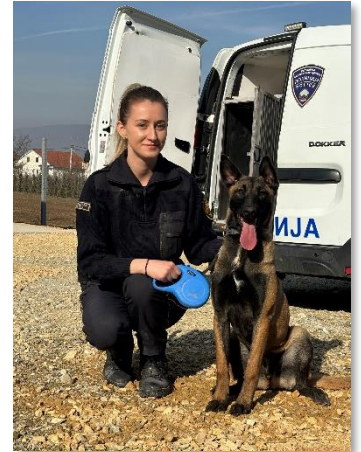
Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- Infrastructure upgrades of nine K9 facilities
  - Office and training facilities
  - Changing facilities for women
  - Weapon storages
  - Kennels



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets



# Progress and Results

Construction Site	Status
K9 HQ in Hipodrom	✓ Completed and handed over in June 2023
K9 Tigar Unit in Illinden Barracks	✓ Completed and handed over in November 2023
Regional K9 Training and Certification Center in Gjorce Petrov	✓ Completed and handed over in September 2024
K9 Outpost in Delcevo	✓ Completed and handover over in September 2024
K9 Outpost in Shtip	❑ Upcoming in Q2/2025
K9 Outpost in Ohrid	❑ Upcoming in Q2/2025
K9 Outpost in Strumica	❑ Upcoming in Q4/2025
K9 Outpost in Gostivar	❑ Upcoming in Q4/2025
K9 Outpost in Bogorodica	❑ Upcoming in Q1/2026



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- Standard operating procedure and training manual for K9 deployment were developed in 2022 and 2023
- In 2022, the project donated 14 specialized vehicles and 3 specialized trailers



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- An animal welfare expert was engaged to verify the K9 infrastructure's adherence to international best practices on animal treatment was conducted in August 2024





# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- National and international experts reviewed the regulatory framework of engaging K9 units within law enforcement operations was conducted in July 2023



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

In 2023 and 2024:

- Procurement of 200 mattresses for the police dog kennels to ensure an increased duty life-span
- Procurement of ICT equipment for K9 administration
- Procurement of polygon equipment



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

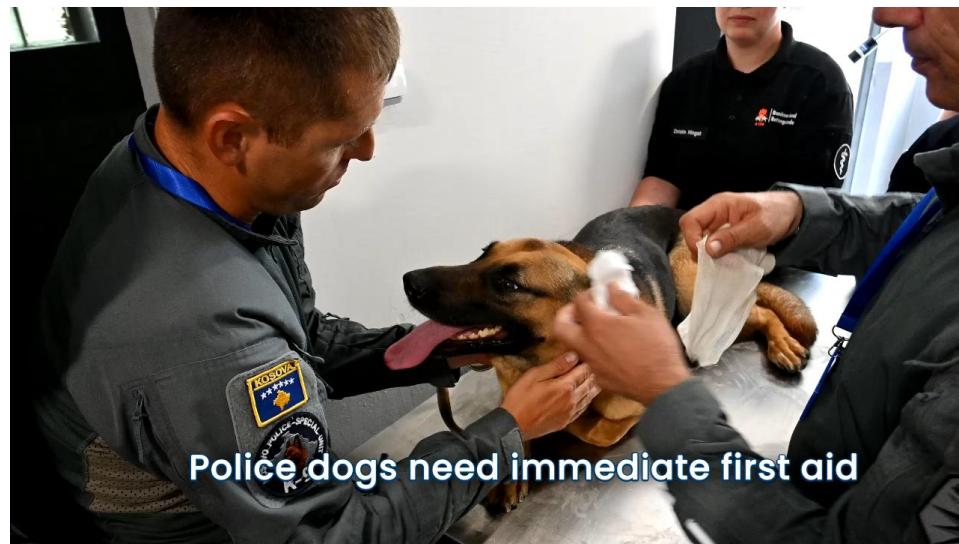
- Study visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2024
  - K9 Management
  - Duty dog training
  - Strategical partnership



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- In June 2024 a Regional Training Program on Duty Dog Care and First Aid was organized for all Western Balkans Jurisdictions



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- Official Opening of the Regional K9 Training and Certification Center in Skopje was organized in September 2024



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

- A one-year FRONTEX - Dog Handler Certification Course (Product Scent) started in September 2024
- Participants from North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina



# Progress and Results

Activity 2. Increasing the SALW detection capacity of the MoIA through the efficient deployment of K9 assets

Upcoming activities:

- Management training for middle and upper K9 Unit Managers
- Development of asset management tools and concepts
- Development and implementation of a strategic document on K9 unit development
- Mentoring program for experienced dog handlers to elevate their skills
- Train-the-Trainers program at the Gramat K9 Training Center (in France)



# Project Activity

## Activity 3. Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- ✓ Sub-Activity 3.1 Equipment assistance, physical infrastructure, and ICT upgrades of the information exchange systems at the selected Police and Customs Cooperation Centers (PCCC)
- ✓ Sub-Activity 3.2 Developing an SOP on real-time information exchange related to SALW incidents
- ✓ Sub-Activity 3.3 Training program on the application of the SOP on real-time information exchange related to SALW incidents
- ✓ Sub-Activity 3.4 Staff exchange program (traineeship)
- ❖ Sub-Activity 3.5 Organizing Police and Customs Cooperation Centre Conference

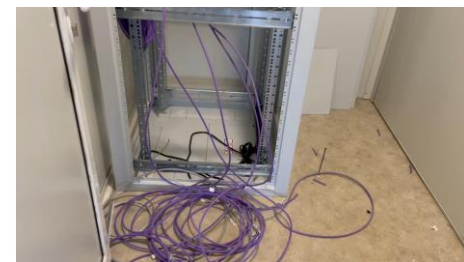




# Progress and Results

Activity 3. Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- Infrastructure upgrades at four border crossings and the MoIA HQ for installing EUROPOL's SIENA system completed in 2023



# Progress and Results

## Activity 3. Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- Standard operating procedure and training manual for real-time information exchange on SALW-related incidents developed



# Progress and Results

## Activity 3. Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

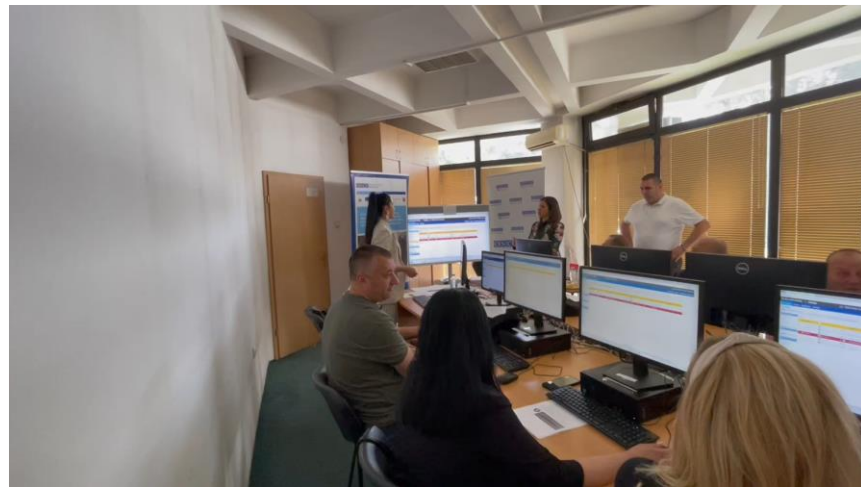
- A study visit to the Special Border Police Unit and one Police Customs Cooperation Center in Slovenia (Austrian, Italian, Slovenian border) conducted in May 2023



# Progress and Results

## Activity 3. Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- Basic Training on EUROPOL's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) for officers from the Police and Customs Cooperation Centers in June 2023



# Progress and Results

Activity 3. Piloting a real-time information exchange system in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- Staff exchange and strategic relationship between the Border Police in North Macedonia and Slovenia in October 2023



# Project Activity

## Activity 4. Advancing the National SALW Commission's operational and analytical capabilities in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- ✓ Sub-Activity 4.1 Organizing an inter-agency cooperation workshop on the SALW control regime
- ✓ Sub-Activity 4.2 Developing an orientation manual for the members of the Commission
- ✓ Sub-Activity 4.3 Analysis of the state of the control of SALW



# Progress and Results

## Activity 4. Advancing the National SALW Commission's operational and analytical capabilities in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW

- Regional and local inter-agency cooperation workshops on SALW control for upgrading existing Rules of Procedures were organized in 2022
- A new orientation manual for the National SALW Commission was developed in 2022



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# Project Activity

Activity 5. Enhancing the awareness-raising capacity of the National SALW Commission and the MoIA on the risk of SALW proliferation and misuse of firearms

- ✓ Sub-Activity 5.1 Design a coordinated awareness-raising/communication strategy
- ❖ Sub-Activity 5.2 Public awareness campaign on threats of SALW



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# Progress and Results

## Activity 5. Enhancing the awareness-raising capacity of the National SALW Commission and the MoIA on the risk of SALW proliferation and misuse of firearms

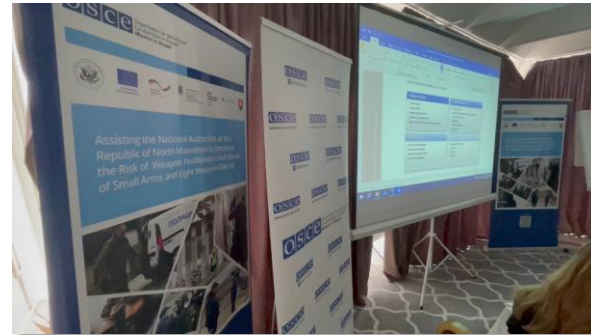
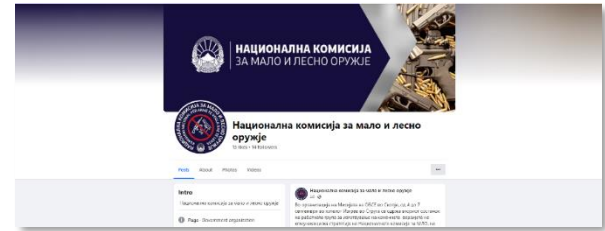
- 25,000 leaflets and a video on the mandatory recertification of legal weapons developed and published in the first half of 2023
- A significant uptick in registration request was the result



# Progress and Results

## Activity 5. Enhancing the awareness-raising capacity of the National SALW Commission and the MoIA on the risk of SALW proliferation and misuse of firearms

- Communication Strategy for the National SALW Commission developed and adopted in March 2023
- A social media channel was set up and the new logo was published



# Progress and Results

## Activity 5. Enhancing the awareness-raising capacity of the National SALW Commission and the MoIA on the risk of SALW proliferation and misuse of firearms

- The concept for a public awareness campaign was developed and is under review

### Key visual 1



#### Message

Life has no restart  
The weapon is not a game! Stay away.

Животот нема рестарт  
Оружјето не е игра! Држи се подалеку.

Jeta nuk ka restart  
Arma nuk është lojë! Qëndro larg tyre.

#### Explication

The visual "Life Has No Restart" highlights the danger of treating weapons like toys. The gun, surrounded by children's toys, symbolizes the seriousness of consequences and the importance of staying away from firearms. The message encourages awareness and responsibility: "The weapon is not a game! Stay away."

IDEA Plus  
Communications 360

# Project Activity

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

- ❖ Sub-Activity 6.1 Developing SOPs and a manual on the destruction of weapons and explosives
- ✓ Sub-Activity 6.2 Developing an SOP on the verification, registration, and marking of deactivated firearms
- ❑ Sub-Activity 6.3 Delivering specialized training on firearms destruction and deactivation verification
- ❑ Sub-Activity 6.4 Equipment assistance and infrastructure upgrades for the administrative facilities
- ❖ Sub-Activity 6.5 Equipment assistance and infrastructure upgrades for firearms deactivation and destruction inspection facilities



# Progress and Results

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

- A study visit to the Republic of Serbia was organized in cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat for the MoIA - Sector on Weapons, Explosives, and Hazardous Materials in 2022



# Progress and Results

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

- Two vehicles for firearms deactivation inspectors were donated to increase their mobility and enable the transport of specialized equipment in September 2023



# Progress and Results

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

In March 2023:

- Procurement of a printer and 6000 sheets of certificate paper with security features for deactivation certificates
- Donation of a PC for operating the deactivated firearms marking machine and printing deactivation certificates
- Donation of one laptop and eight smartphones to enhance internal and external communication in the Sector of Weapons, Explosives, and Hazardous Materials



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# Progress and Results

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

- A standard operating procedure for the verification, registration, and marking of deactivated firearms was developed
- This document aligns with EU 2018/337





# Progress and Results

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

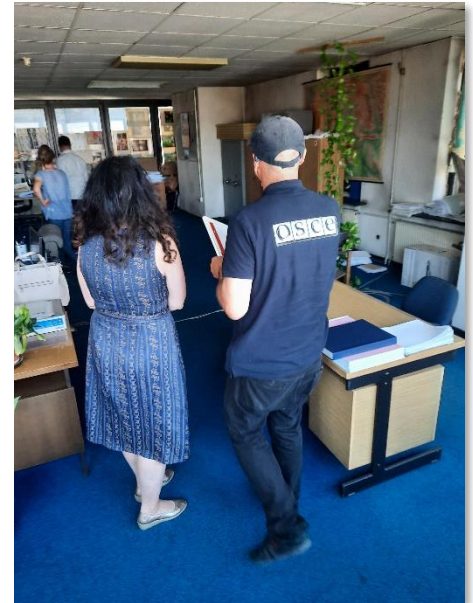
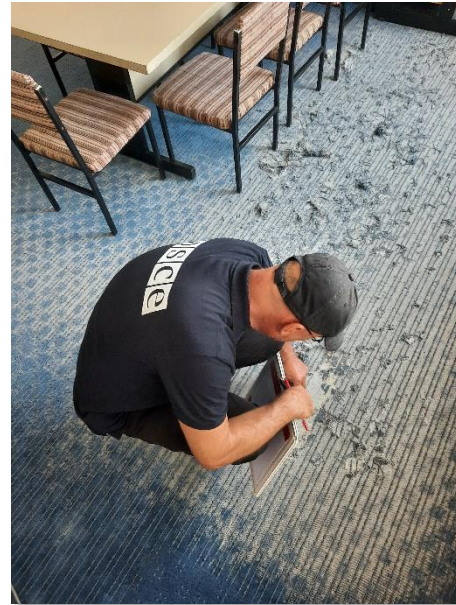
- Development of an SOP on the Destruction of Weapons and Ammunition is ongoing
- Development of an SOP on the Destruction of Explosives is ongoing



# Progress and Results

## Activity 6. Reduction of illicit firearms through SALW destruction and deactivation

- The procurement process for establishing a deactivation workshop is ongoing



# Planning (Q4 2024 / Q1 2025) | Highlights

- Dog handler training and certification programs | [Q4/2024](#)
- Developing e-learning courses for real-time information exchange | [Q4/2024](#)
- Finalizing the SOPs on weapon, ammunition, and explosives destruction | [Q4/2024](#)
- Awareness-raising campaign on the threats of misuse of firearms and SALW proliferation | [Q1/2025](#)
- Organizing a regional police and customs cooperation event | [Q4/2024](#)
- Donating further equipment to the Police Dog Units | [Q4/2024](#)
- Upgrading the weapons deactivation workshop in the Ministry of Internal Affairs | [Q1/2024](#)



Challenges	Implemented Actions
Complex procedure for the adoption and integration of SOPs by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including members of the involved departments in the working groups</li> <li>• Constant contact and follow-up with the MoIA's project focal point legal department</li> </ul>
A high amount of retirements in the MoIA, new appointees, and loss of institutional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early involvement of potential appointees</li> <li>• Preconditions for participation in project training courses (min. five years of service left)</li> </ul>
Increased prices for construction materials and works, and volatile markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project's procurement specialist is increasingly engaged in market research and monitoring</li> <li>• Budget planning requires extensive financial research</li> <li>• Budget revision upcoming</li> </ul>
Unforeseen works during construction activities due to missing infrastructure plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive geodetic analysis in the planning phase</li> <li>• Contingency funds to be included</li> </ul>

# Live Project Updates

<https://salw.osce.org/Projects/ViewPage/2600975-assisting-the-national-authorities-of-the-republic-of-north-macedonia-to-decrease-the-risk-of-weapon-proliferation-and-misuse-of-small-arms-and-light-weapons-salw>



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