



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: 4,240,028 EUR

Funding gap: 3,819,416 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 1. Establishing project management capacity, reporting, and visibility

- ❖ Sub-Activity 1.1 Establishing the Project Implementation Team
- ❖ Sub-Activity 1.2 Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation
- ❖ Sub-Activity 1.3 Gender mainstreaming
- ❖ Sub-Activity 1.4 Developing a visibility plan and promotional materials
- ❖ Sub-Activity 1.5 Project opening and closing conference



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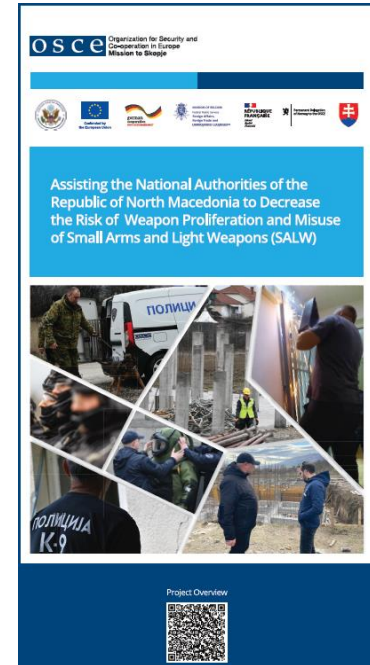
# Project Activity

## Activity 1. Establishing project management capacity, reporting, and visibility

- The Visual Identity of the project was developed
- Reporting channels with donors, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders have been established

### Gender Mainstreaming:

- The project established a gender focal point which is a member of the Mission's Gender Working Group
- Gender Mainstreaming strategy developed - implementation and tracking are ongoing
- Significant progress, especially in the National SALW Commission and K9 Unit



# 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



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# Progress and Results

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

- Infrastructure upgrades at three out of nine K9 facilities
  - Office and training facilities
  - Changing facilities for women
  - Weapon storages
  - Kennels
- ✓ Opening of the K9 HQ on 14 June 2023



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# 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
- Donation of 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





# 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



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



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# Progress and Results

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

- Study visit to Slovenia on real-time information exchange and implementation of international best practices regarding SALW incidents



# 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



# Progress and Results

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

- Staff exchange program and development of a strategic relationship between the Border Police in North Macedonia and Slovenia



# 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
- A new orientation manual for the National SALW Commission was developed





# 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

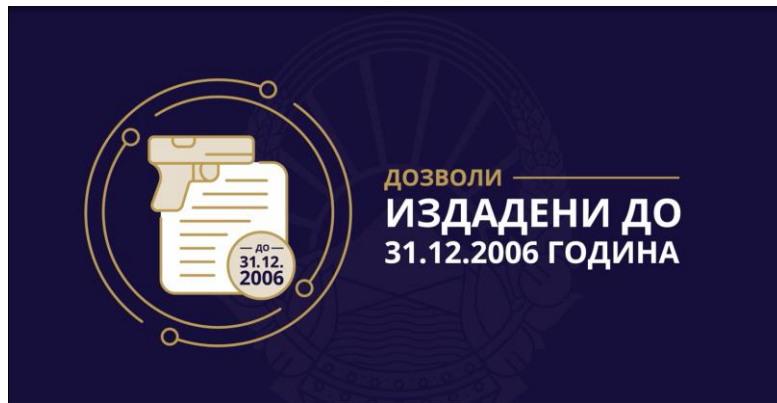
- A leaflet on the mandatory recertification of legal weapons developed and distributed through local police



# 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

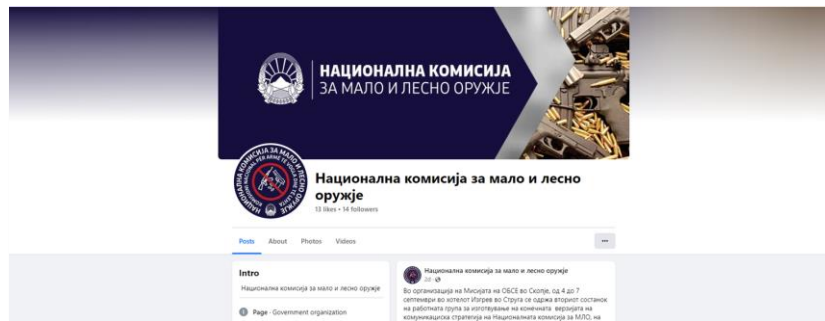
- An awareness-raising video for the mandatory recertification of weapons in legal possession was developed and published through social media and television



# 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

- Working group meetings on developing a communication strategy for the National SALW Commission were conducted
- Commission logo and social media presence developed



# Project Activity

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

- ❑ Sub-Activity 6.1 Developing an SOP and a manual on firearms destruction
- ❖ Sub-Activity 6.2 Developing an SOP on deactivated firearms registration
- ❑ 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

- 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



# 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



# Progress and Results

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

- A working group on developing a standard operating procedure for registration of deactivated firearms was established and is working
- A draft deactivation certificate following EU 2018/337 was developed and is in the approval process





# Progress and Results

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

- 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



# Planning (Q3/2023-Q1/2024) | Highlights

- Completing PCCC infrastructure upgrades and installation of SIENA | [Q3/2023](#)
- Developing e-learning courses for K9 deployment and PCCC real-time information exchange | [Q3/2023](#)
- Developing SOPs regarding deactivated firearms registration | [Q3/2023](#)
- Awareness-raising on the threats of misuse of firearms and SALW proliferation | [Q1/2024](#)
- Cross-border staff exchange program for PCCC officers in Slovenia | [Q1/2024](#)
- Developing physical infrastructure designs for firearms administration and inspection facilities | [Q1/2024](#)
- Developing asset management tools for the K9 Units (veterinary, budget, maintenance, etc.) | [Q1/2024](#)
- Deliver a pilot training course on transnational real-time information exchange on SALW | [Q1/2024](#)
- Developing an SOP on verifying firearms destruction | [Q1/2024](#)



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# Live Project Updates

OSCE SALW Portfolio Platform:

<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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# Thank you for your attention and generous support!



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