

SCSP WORKING TABLE III

SEESAC 'BULLET POINT' REPORT - NOVEMBER 2005

SEESAC MISSION STATEMENT

To further support the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan by building 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 Europe.

Introduction

SEESAC published its sixth Bi-annual Report on 30 June 2005, and this is available on the project website (www.seesac.org). The next formal report is due as at 31 December 2005. The aim of this 'Bullet Point' report is to update participants at the twelfth Working Table III (WT III) meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, 15 November 2005 on the activities of SEESAC since the last meeting.

During 2005 SEESAC has continued with the operational support phase of the project and has concentrated on the further provision of immediate support to SALW initiatives within the region.

A mid-term UNDP/Stability Pact assessment recommended that SEESAC enter a new two-year phase from January 2005 to December 2006. SEESAC Phase 2 is designed to; 1) build on the success of the project to date; 2) confirm the strategy that has evolved as a result of evolving SALW issues and requirements in the region; and 3) prepare for the transfer of SEESAC for full local ownership by the region. This includes strong encouragement for national governments within the region to make a limited financial contribution to the project in order that they become 'partners', rather than just 'beneficiaries'.

Impact of SEESAC

When SEESAC was formed there was only one UNDP SALW control project in progress in the region (Albania). SEESAC has since made major contributions to the development and implementation of UNDP SALW control projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2003), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM) (2003), Kosovo (2004)¹, and Serbia and Montenegro (2004). These projects all reached the end of their preparatory assistance phases during late 2004, and now as they are in a period of project maturity they will continue to require



¹ SEESAC had minimal involvement in the UNDP Kosovo Illegal SALW Control Project (ISAC) during 2002/2003, but has recently taken part in a wider Security Sector Reform (SSR) strategy development mission to Kosovo in March 2004.






the technical support and assistance at the operational level that SEESAC is ideally placed (and staffed) to provide. (Additionally SALW Surveys are planned or ongoing for Croatia (planned) and Moldova (ongoing) during 2005, which may lead to the development of SALW control projects in these countries).

SEESAC has developed partnerships with bi-lateral donors for the development of destruction of recovered and surplus SALW. The specific mechanism is that SEESAC develops the project document and methodology for destruction with national stakeholders, the bi-lateral donor develops the funding mechanism direct with the national stakeholders, whilst during destruction SEESAC provides monitoring, verification and quality assurance support. The advantage to the bi-lateral donor is one of technical support during project development, leading to confidence in the project. The advantages to UNDP and SEESAC is that funding for destruction, (which would never traditionally have been made available to UNDP by this specific bi-lateral donor), can be used in the implementation of national SALW control strategies that are directly supported by UNDP projects. To date over USD 200,000 has been accessed, with more potentially available to support weapon destruction during 2006, (should the opportunity arise). SEESAC 2 will continue to provide this specific support, thereby making a major contribution to resource mobilization within the region.

The development of national SALW control strategies and SALW related projects (both UNDP and other organizations) within the region now follow the technical methodologies² developed by SEESAC with a wide range of partners. These methodologies require continual revision and updating as SALW control projects mature and lessons learned are fed back into the development process. The implementation of these technical methodologies will require further operational and technical support, (for example during SALW awareness, collection and destruction), which SEESAC 2 will again be ideally placed to provide. This makes a major contribution to the safety, synergy and co-ordination of SALW control projects, hence also ensuring the best use of scarce donor resources.










Specific activity updates (Not in priority order).³

SEESAC has spent the period since the last WT III meeting continuing the development operational support tools and providing technical assistance to SALW control project throughout the region. This has included:




- ❑ Development, maintenance and implementation of Regional Micro-Disarmament Standards and Guidelines (RMDS/G). 
- ❑ Development of SALW Awareness Support Pack (Second Edition) (SASP 2). 
- ❑ Maintenance and implementation of SALW Survey Protocols, (in cooperation with the Small Arms Survey). 
- ❑ Maintenance of the Regional SALW Database for Projects, Collection, Destruction, Illicit Street Prices and SALW Publications. 
- ❑ Development of Database of SALW Publications. 
- ❑ Updating Compendium of Arms Laws in the region.



² Regional Micro-Disarmament Standards and Guidelines (RMDS/G), SALW Awareness Support Pack (SASP) and SALW Survey Protocols.

³ Only includes activities during May 2005 - October 2005. See previous update for past work.

- ❑ Maintaining SEESAC project website with links to all the important international and regional SALW source documentation and materials. 
- ❑ Publication of Regional Quarterly SALW Newsletter. (June 2005 and September 2005). 
- ❑ Technical advice, support or assistance to:
 - UNDP Bosnia - Further development of Small Arms Assistance Project (SAP) and provision of technical advice to Defence Reform Committee 7 (SALW and Ammunition). 
 - UNDP Macedonia - Development of Small Arms Control In Macedonia (SACIM) Project (Phase 2). 
 - UNDP Serbia and Montenegro - Technical support to the SALW Control in SCG (SACISCG) project. 
 - OSCE Belarus for the development of a SALW Stockpile Security project. 
 - UK FCO for the monitoring and evaluation of SALW (Ammunition) destruction activities in Albania. 
 - Government of Moldova for the destruction of approximately 1,700 SALW (Weapons). (Swiss funded). 
- ❑ SALW Survey of Moldova. (In cooperation with Saferworld). 
- ❑ Operational Research into:
 - SALW Risk Education in Schools - A National Curriculum.
 - Private Security Companies (PSC) and SALW in SEE.
 - SALW Awareness and Mine Risk Education Synergies.
- ❑ Production and screening of TV Documentary - 'A Lethal Legacy'.
- ❑ Development and Publication of SEE SALW Monitor 2005.
- ❑ Development of SEE Network for the Control of Arms (SEENCA) NGO website.

Ongoing or planned activities

- ❑ Development of trial Weapons Registration system. 
- ❑ Development of 'Guide to SALW Control' for non-technical staff. 
- ❑ Operational Research into:
 - Study and development of training pack for 'Clandestine Arms Deliveries'. (Due late 2005). 

- Study into Cost Benefit Analysis of SALW Storage versus Destruction. (With UNIDIR, due late 2005). 
 - Study into SALW and Gun Culture in SEE.
 - Summary of Legal and Illegal Regional Arms Transfers 1999 – 2004. (Ongoing). 
- Preparation for implementation of the EU Western Balkans SALW Support Plan in 2006. (EU 1.5M).

Key lessons learnt ⁴

- *Commitment and active participation from national government is essential to the success of SALW control interventions.*
- *National Focal Points must play a much more significant role in the information management process.*
- UNDP offices can and should play central role in development and execution of SALW projects, but other organisations must also be supported
- Substantial SALW projects should not be started before budgets are secured, (loss of momentum may have a de-stabilising effect on the security environment)
- *NGO's and CSO's, participating in SALW, need to have the "ear of the government"*
- Involvement of the local police and military is an essential element in SALW projects
- Resource mobilisation must be a continuous process
- Flexibility and imagination in implementation is the key for success
- Sound technical standards are the key to effectiveness, efficiency and safety of any SALW intervention. These must be implemented from the outset to ensure that a SALW intervention is planned from the outset using the best available information.

Major challenges

The national focal points in stakeholder governments currently have a very low profile in some nations and important SALW related information is not been disseminated by them within their own governments and agencies. SEESAC considers that the role of the NFPs should again be discussed at the meeting, and that they should be influenced to be more effective.

Ensuring synergy between projects from different international organisations. SEESAC continues to find out about 'competing' or 'complimentary' projects once it is too late to coordinate with other related projects. This is wasteful of donor resources. More coordination is required.

⁴ Those in italics are suggested as discussion topics during the meeting.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Wilkinson', is located in the upper left quadrant of the page.

Adrian Wilkinson
SEESAC Team Leader

Office: +381 11 344 6352

Mobile: +381 63 217 350

Fax: +381 11 344 6356

E Mail: adrian.wilkinson@undp.org

URL: www.seesac.org