



SCSP WORKING TABLE III

SEESAC 'BULLET POINT' REPORT - MAY 2006

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 seventh Bi-annual Report on 31 December 2005, and this is available on the project website (www.seesac.org). The next formal report is due as at 30 June 2006. The aim of this 'Bullet Point' report is to update participants at the thirteenth Working Table III (WT III) meeting, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 29 May 2006 on the activities of SEESAC since the last meeting.

During 2006 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. The implementation of the Western Balkans SALW Control Support Plan (EU 2PP), funded by the European Union, is a major focus of SEESAC work during 2006. This is a EURO 1.5M project that not only funds SEESAC, but also makes major contributions to regional and national SALW initiatives within the Western Balkans.¹

SEESAC is now in Phase 2, which will be complete in December 2006, and this phase 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'. The project document to continue SEESAC for 2007 - 2008 has been developed and approved by stakeholders and is now been administratively approved by UNDP, (donor funding for 2007 has already been identified from the EU).

Impact of SEESAC

When SEESAC was formed there was only one UNDP SALW control project in progress in the region (Albania SSR). SEESAC has since made major contributions to the development and implementation of UNDP SALW control projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina



¹ Further details available from SEESAC on request.



(2003), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM) (2003), Kosovo (2004)² (2006)³, Serbia and Montenegro (2004), Albania EUSAC (2006)⁴ and Croatia (2006)⁵. Many of these projects and interventions 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 the technical support and assistance at the operational level that SEESAC is ideally placed (and staffed) to provide. (Additionally a SALW Survey is ongoing in Moldova, which may lead to the development of a SALW control project.

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 methodologies⁶ 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).⁷

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). Edition 3 issued on 30 March 2006.

² 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.

³ EU Western Balkans SALW Control Support Plan (EU 2PP) funded.

⁴ EU Western Balkans SALW Control Support Plan (EU 2PP) funded.

⁵ EU Western Balkans SALW Control Support Plan (EU 2PP) funded.

⁶ Regional Micro-Disarmament Standards and Guidelines (RMDS/G), SALW Awareness Support Pack (SASP) and SALW Survey Protocols.

⁷ Only includes activities during May 2005 - October 2005. See previous update for past work.



- ❑ Development of SALW Awareness Support Pack (Second Edition) (SASP 2). Issued on 30 March 2006.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ 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 Serbia and Montenegro - Technical support to the SALW Control in SCG (SACISCG) project, including weapons destruction.
 - EU Mission (Ukraine) on APM PFM1 destruction tender evaluation.
 - UNIDIR (Geneva) on EU Pilot Project for SALW and ERW strategy development.
- ❑ Development of SEE Network for the Control of Arms (SEENCA) NGO website.
- ❑ SALW Film Festival (Serbia).
- ❑ New Year 2005/2006 Celebratory Gunfire Campaign.
- ❑ Development of Security Sector Information Forum (SSIF) data exchange system in SCG. Trial complete and now available regionally. (www.ssif-scg.org).
- ❑ A wide range of presentations and lectures on SALW issues to academic institutions, regional organizations, conferences and seminars.

Ongoing or planned activities

- ❑ Development of 'Guide to SALW Control' for non-technical staff.
- ❑ Operational Research into:
 - Study and development of training pack for 'Clandestine Arms Deliveries'. (Due mid 2006).
 - Study into Cost Benefit Analysis of SALW Storage versus Destruction. (With UNIDIR, due June 2006).



- Study into SALW and Gun Culture in SEE.
 - Summary of Legal and Illegal Regional Arms Transfers 1999 – 2004. (Ongoing).
 - Analysis of Armed Violence data collation mechanisms within SEE.
- Implementation of the EU Western Balkans SALW Support Plan in 2006. (EU 1.5M).
 - Development and Publication of SEE SALW Monitor 2006.

Key lessons learnt ⁸

- *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.

⁸ Those in italics are suggested as discussion topics during the meeting.



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