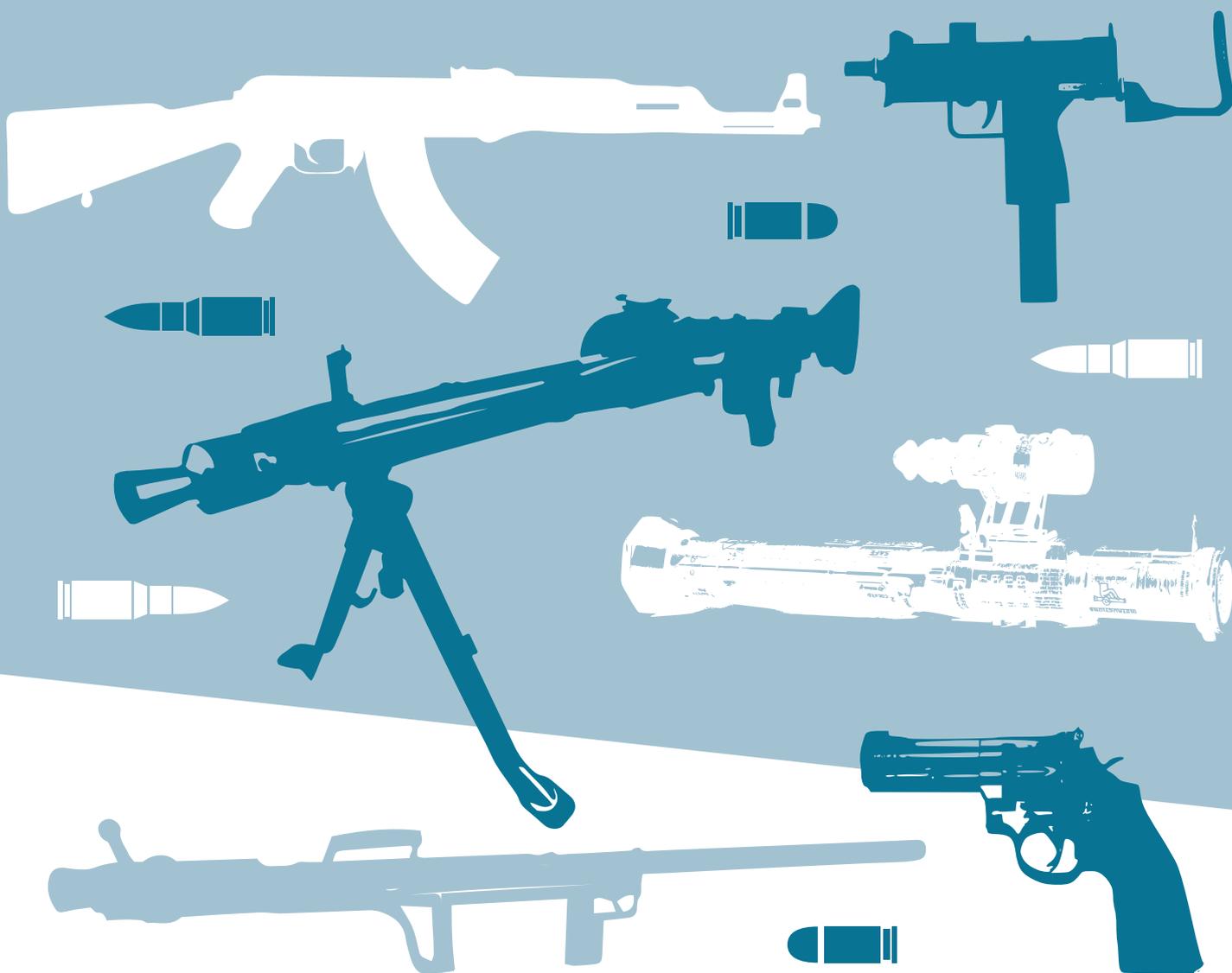


OSCE's work on small arms and conventional ammunition



What we do

Small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition can pose a serious threat to societies. The OSCE works with the organization's 57 participating States to mitigate these risks.

Small arms and light weapons (SALW)

These are recognized as a major cause of deaths and of human rights abuses. Because of their compact size and ease of availability often makes them the weapons of choice for rebels, armed groups, terrorists and criminal gangs.

Reflecting the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security and working in co-operation with other international fora,

the OSCE participating States have developed norms, principles and measures covering all aspects of SALW control. In the **2012 OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons** they agreed to regulate the production, transfer, storage, collection, and destruction of such weapons, and to control their export.

The **OSCE Handbook on Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

covers all stages of a weapon's life cycle, advising states on responsible conduct in this area, starting with manufacturing, the proper marking of small arms, accurate and sustained record keeping, export control criteria and transparency about transfers, and finishing with destruction and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.

Stockpiles of conventional ammunition

These pose risks because of their explosive nature. Often the explosions cause casualties, including numerous deaths, and result in significant, widespread destruction of property and infrastructure and damage to the environment.

In order to mitigate the security risks arising from SCA, explosive material, and

detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction, the OSCE works to ensure that SCA and explosives are safely and securely maintained.

The **2003 OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition**, recognizes participating States' responsibility for stockpile safety and security, outlines criteria for identifying surplus SCA, explosive material or detonating devices and offers a framework for safe and secure stockpile management.

The **OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition** relates to the most important stages of the life-cycle of ammunition, starting with marking, registration and record-keeping, management and physical security of stockpiles, and finally the destruction of conventional ammunition.

SMALL ARMS



revolvers



rifles



carbines

light machine guns



semiautomatic pistols



assault rifles



sub-machine guns

LIGHT WEAPONS



heavy machine guns



portable anti-aircraft guns

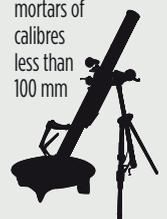


portable anti-tank guns



portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems

mortars of calibres less than 100 mm



hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers



recoilless rifles



portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems (MANPADS)

How we work

The OSCE supports participating States in implementing their commitments. Upon request, it provides assistance with the collection and destruction of SALW, helps improve legislation to effectively control SALW, and assists in improving the management of conventional ammunition stockpiles.

Assistance Mechanism

The OSCE has a proven and well-functioning mechanism for providing assistance to states as established by the OSCE documents on SALW and SCA. Both OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation can submit official

requests for OSCE assistance. The scope of assistance includes controlling the cross-border trafficking of SALW, the destruction of surplus SALW and SCA, physical security and stockpile management, and SALW collection programmes.

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the

decision-making body in the OSCE's politico-military dimension, reviews the request and proceeds with a needs assessment visit. The assessment report determines the scope of the assistance needed and provides recommendations for the project development and further implementation.

The assistance can be offered in the form of financial, technical or expert contributions provided by the participating States or donor organizations.

Every project proposal is evaluated by the OSCE Secretariat, before it becomes open for donor contributions from states.

States also have the option to contribute funds to a 'Repository programme' for a certain activity, country/region or both. It is similar to a trust

fund, but with more flexibility and control on behalf of the donor. It allows the possibility for long-term contributions, therefore saving time and improving cost efficiency for contributing states.

Practical Assistance Projects

The OSCE practical assistance projects are managed, co-ordinated, implemented and evaluated by the FSC Support Section at the OSCE Secretariat, and conducted on the ground mostly through the OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as in the South Caucasus.

The OSCE annually implements between 10-20 SALW and SCA projects in a number participating States.



Both OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation can submit official requests for OSCE assistance. In Tajikistan, a storage and destruction facility for SALW at the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe is equipped with special cutting machines to destroy recovered weapons.



Since 2003 the OSCE has been supporting its participating States in eliminating stores of mélange, a highly toxic and volatile rocket fuel. It is either neutralized or safely transferred to specialized chemical facilities where it can be converted to industrial products of non-military nature.

How we work (continued)

Gender aspect

The OSCE also works on addressing the impact on women and children of the excessive, destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of conventional ammunition and SALW.

Equal participation of both women and men in disarmament policy and planning increases the legitimacy, quality, and effectiveness of disarmament as a whole and is an approach the OSCE undertakes in the implementation of its assistance projects.

Information exchange

The OSCE facilitates the exchange of information between its participating States on SALW-related issues, allowing them to examine trends in implementation, challenges and opportunities. It also helps the OSCE to identify how best to support participating States in meeting their commitments.

The OSCE has introduced an online reporting tool that allows States to simultaneously submit national SALW reports to both the OSCE and the UN. This aims to lessen the reporting burden on participating States and to encourage a co-ordinated approach to reporting.



Because of their explosive nature, stockpiles of conventional ammunition pose risks to nearby communities. To minimize the threat, the OSCE works with its participating States to ensure the destruction of surplus ammunition and in properly securing and managing stockpiles of SALW.

Donors

Since 2004 the following participating States and donors have contributed to the OSCE's SALW and SCA assistance projects:

Austria	Greece	Netherlands	Sweden
Belarus	Hungary	Norway	Switzerland
Belgium	Ireland	Poland	Turkey
Czech Republic	Italy	Russian Federation	United Kingdom
Denmark	Kazakhstan		United States
Finland	Liechtenstein	Slovakia	Ukraine
France	Lithuania	Slovenia	-----
Germany	Luxembourg	Spain	European Union

Partners

Recognizing the linkages and synergies with other international instruments, organizations, issues and processes in this sphere, the OSCE co-ordinates its SALW- and SCA-related activities.

The partners include the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and its South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC), the European Union, and NATO's Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA).

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OSCE Secretariat
Conflict Prevention Centre
FSC Support Section

Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 1 514 36 6945
fsc.support@osce.org
www.osce.org/fsc