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# Forgotten Weapons? Non-Regularised Firearms in the European Union

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Project DIVERT

PROJECT DIVERT: REPORT

Forgotten weapons?  
**Non-regularised  
firearms**  
in the European Union



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# Structure of Presentation

- 1. Defining firearms non-regularisation**
- 2. Types of firearms non-regularisation**
- 3. The scope of firearms non-regularisation in the EU**
- 4. Improving the intelligence picture on firearms non-regularisation**

## What is non-regularisation?

*Non-regularisation is a process in which firearms, ammunition or firearm components should have undergone a legal regularisation (i.e., legalization) process but have not.*

## What causes firearms non-regularisation?

- Legacy of armed conflict or significant political transitions
- Changes in the legislation
- Inheritance of firearms






# Type 1: Conflict legacy firearms in the European Union

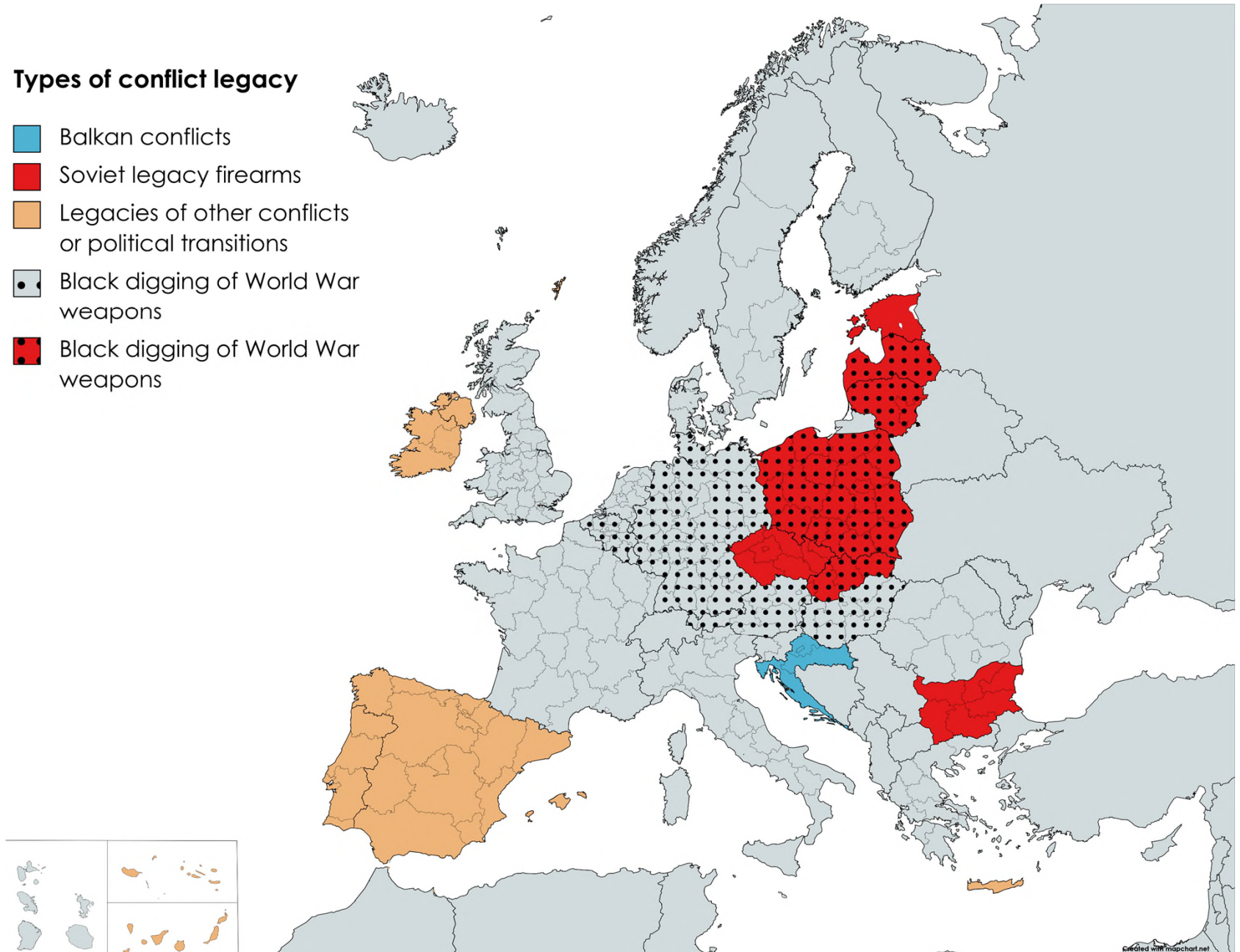
- **Firearms from recent armed conflicts**
  - ❑ Western Balkans
  - ❑ Northern Ireland
  
- **Firearms from the First and Second World War**
  
- **Firearms from other (older) armed conflicts**
  - ❑ Spain
  - ❑ Cyprus
  
- **Political Transition**
  - ❑ Post-soviet legacy firearms in Eastern Europe
  - ❑ Portugal
  
- **Future conflict legacies?**
  - ❑ Ukraine
  - ❑ MENA region



Source: Latvian Criminal Police

## Types of conflict legacy

-  Balkan conflicts
-  Soviet legacy firearms
-  Legacies of other conflicts or political transitions
-  Black digging of World War weapons
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created with mapchart.net

# Type 2: Changes to the firearms regulation

## ➤ Motivation to non-regularise?

- ❑ Intentionally
- ❑ Unintentionally

## ➤ Type of law changes prone to non-regularisation

- ❑ Re-classification of live-firing firearms (e.g., Germany, Belgium)
- ❑ New rules for blank-firing guns (e.g., gas pistols and alarms pistols in Lithuania and Spain)
- ❑ New rules for firearms deactivation (e.g., in Spain)

## ➤ Future Challenge

- ❑ Acoustic expansion firearms, decorative firearms, blank firing guns

# Type 3: Inheritance

## ➤ Types

- Inheritance of legal firearms
- Inheritance of illegal firearms

## ➤ Motivation

- Intentionally
- Unintentionally



Source: Gendarmerie des Hautes-Pyrénées



# Scope of Non-Regularization

- **Information often based on expert estimates, not quantitative data**
- **Non-regularisations is an important source of illicit firearms possession in many member states**
  - E.g., Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Spain

# How to develop more intelligence: What we know and what we don't know

## ➤ What do we know?

- ❑ Modus operandi of non-regularisation
- ❑ General idea of the scope

## ➤ Next steps to improve the intelligence picture?

- ❑ Collecting more quantitative evidence on the scope

## ➤ Good practices to generate intelligence

- ❑ Analysing seized firearm for their point of diversion
- ❑ Systematic tracing of firearms used in crimes
- ❑ Assessing changes to the firearms regulation
- ❑ Gaining a better understanding of non-regularisation through inheritance