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# EU and national initiatives to tackle non-regularised firearms

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'Forgotten weapons: Non-regularised firearms in the European Union',  
Webinar, 28 April 2021

# EU initiatives (1)

- **2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking**
  - ❑ Safeguarding the licit market and limiting diversion
  - ❑ Building a better intelligence picture
  
- **Improving intelligence picture on diversion within the EU**
  - ❑ Supporting initiatives for better data collection, firearms tracing and information exchange
  - ❑ Previous research projects (eg EFFECT, FIRE, SAFTE, ...) that also analysed diversion and trafficking of conflict legacy weapons
  - ❑ Project DIVERT: explicit focus on non-regularised firearms
  
- **Support for EMPACT Firearms**

# EU initiatives (2)

## ➤ **Combat trafficking of conflict legacy weapons into the EU**

### ❑ Western Balkans

- ❑ *Supporting activities of UNDP-SEESAC*
- ❑ *Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition In the Western Balkans by 2024*

### ❑ Potential future source regions

- ❑ Ukraine
- ❑ MENA

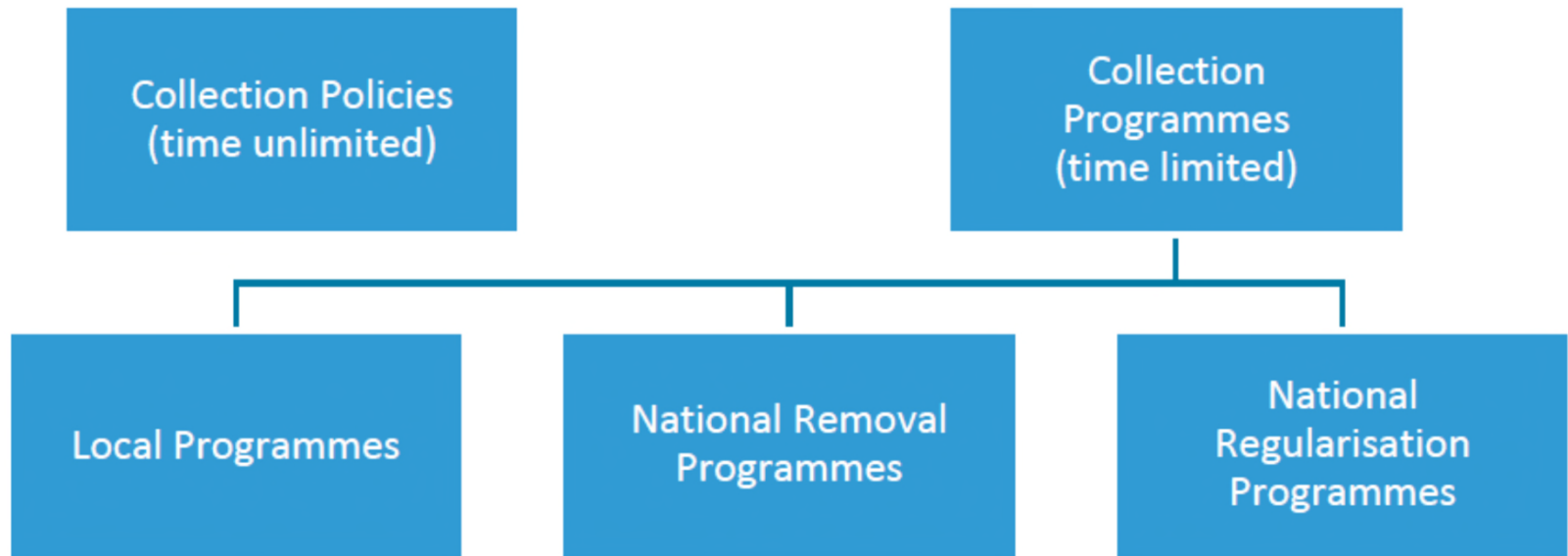
## ➤ **Prevent non-regularisation after changes in regulation**

- ❑ Grandfathering clause for new CAT A6, A7 & A8 firearms

# National initiatives (1)

- **Analysis of 102 cases of collection initiatives undertaken between 1991-2019 in Europe**
  - ❑ Immediate post-conflict context:
    - ❑ By command (phase I) vs. voluntarily (phase II)
    - ❑ Western Balkans and Northern Ireland
  - ❑ Peacetime context
    - ❑ Collection programmes vs. collection policies
    - ❑ Voluntary participation by civilian gun owners in exchange for incentive
    - ❑ Different contexts
  
- **Focus on peacetime collection programmes and policies which contain an amnesty provision**
  - ❑ Mainly official government data and reports to international organisations
  - ❑ Problem of registration of collected firearms

## National initiatives (2)



# National initiatives (3)

## ➤ Collection policies

- ❑ Identified cases
  - ❑ Estonia and Belarus (Soviet legacy weapons)
  - ❑ Croatia and Montenegro (conflict legacy weapons)
  - ❑ Finland (history of high level of gun possession)
- ❑ Organised at national level with only 1 incentive (amnesty)

## ➤ Collection measures

- ❑ More than 650,000 firearms collected
- ❑ Mainly at national level
- ❑ Wide variety in duration
  - ❑ Longer programmes do not necessarily lead to more collected firearms
- ❑ Context
  - ❑ Changes in legislation (33 cases)
  - ❑ Conflict legacy (10 cases)
  - ❑ Mass shooting (4 cases)
  - ❑ Other circumstances
- ❑ Incentive:
  - ❑ Cash rewards are exceptional
  - ❑ Mostly partial amnesty

# National initiatives (4)

## ➤ Local collection programmes

- ❑ 8 identified local programmes
- ❑ Average duration of two weeks
- ❑ Partial amnesty
- ❑ Removal in context of crime context, recent shooting or conflict legacy

## ➤ National removal programmes

- ❑ Generally countries with high numbers of non-regularised firearms
  - ❑ Armed conflict legacy
  - ❑ Legacy from historic changes in regulation
  - ❑ Crime prevention
- ❑ Mainly partial amnesty

## ➤ National regularisation programmes

- ❑ Complementary to new changes in legislation
- ❑ Mainly partial amnesty

# National initiatives (5)

## ➤ Regional patterns?

- ❑ Eastern European countries: Soviet legacy
- ❑ South Eastern Europe: armed conflict legacy
- ❑ Western Europe:
  - ❑ Crime prevention
  - ❑ New legislation



# National initiatives (6)

- **Measures to prevent non-regularisation of inherited weapons**
  - ❑ Intentional non-regularization:
    - ❑ registration of firearms on existing licences or applying for a new licence
    - ❑ deactivation
  - ❑ Unintentional non-regularization:
    - ❑ Information campaigns on legal opportunities
  - ❑ Fear of punishment
    - ❑ Procedures for 'found' firearms
  
- **Measures to prevent non-regularisation after changes of legislation**
  - ❑ Clear and targeted communication on changes and legal possibilities
  - ❑ Good (digital) record-keeping of legally held firearms
  - ❑ Grandfathering clause

PROJECT DIVERT: REPORT

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



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# Organising effective collection measures (1)

## ➤ Phase 1: Planning

- Goal?
  - Removal, regularization or both?
- Target group?
  - Criminals, regular citizens or both?
- Form of collection measure?
  - Local or national?
  - Length of programme?
  - Amnesty for which crimes?
- Communication?
  - Clear and targeted
- Resources required?
  - Various activities

# Organising effective collection measures (2)

## ➤ Phase 2: Implementation

- ❑ Security measures for collecting firearms
- ❑ Security measures for destroying firearms
- ❑ Oversight mechanisms to prevent diversion

## ➤ Phase 3: Evaluation

- ❑ Data collection
  - ❑ Detailed data registration
  - ❑ Cross-checking registers
  - ❑ Publication of results to public
- ❑ Evaluate impact on crime and violence