



# January – March 2023

## START OF PHASE III

Based on the European Union’s (EU) Council Decision (CFSP) [2022/2275](#), the project for “the development of an internationally recognised arms and ammunition management validation system (AAMVS) to prevent illicit proliferation” started on 1 January 2023. The project is intended to run for three years until end of 2025 with a total budget of EUR 1.79M or around EUR 590K yearly to finance staff, consultants, activities and communications costs planned for the delivery of the project.

This constitutes the third phase of the AAMVS project. The first two phases ran from 1 October 2020 until 30 November 2022 during which the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining’s Ammunition Management Advisory Team (GICHD-AMAT) conducted a feasibility study (phase I) and a plan for the development of the AAMVS (phase II). During phase III, in coordination with the EU, GICHD-AMAT will collaborate with states and organisations to test, enhance and promote the AAMVS and its tools to support export control. During the first year, the project team will reach out to stakeholders from the EU to gather advice and information to tailor the AAMVS according to the EU’s policies, standards and practices.



## ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT TEAM

In January, GICHD-AMAT concluded a 2-year partnership with the Small Arms Survey (SAS) to be part of the AAMVS project team by providing strategic and technical support. GICHD-AMAT also rehired the legal and policy expert who supported phases 1 and 2 of the project. In addition, GICHD-AMAT launched 2 open tender procedures to recruit an export control expert consultant and a technical expert to be part of the project team for the first year.

## FIRST PLANNING MEETING

On 14-15 March, GICHD-AMAT held the first planning meeting for the three-year project. The meeting was chaired by GICHD-AMAT and attended by the project team consisting of: GICHD-AMAT Programme Manager, Technical Advisor, Advisor for National Capacities, Programme Officer, two external technical advisors, one external legal and policy advisor, and one export control expert. The aim of the meeting was to clarify the scope of the AAMVS moving forward and develop a work plan. The discussions focused on the self-assessment tool, the AAMVS as a system, project management and outreach.



The project team created a work plan with key milestones and decisions necessary to reach the final outputs described in Annex I of the Council Decision. Based on the findings and results of the first and second phases, the team agreed that the primary purpose of the AAMVS is to serve as a standardised means of transferring information from one state to another about their capabilities to manage arms and ammunition safely security. The project team will work towards developing the final output for the first year which consists of a framework for the EU for the development of the AAMVS and its utilisation.

## GICHD-AMAT MEETING WITH EEAS

On 27-28 March, AMAT travelled to Brussels to hold first meetings with various European Union agencies: EEAS, DG Home and the European Peace Facility (EPF) to present the and discuss the workplan for the development of the AAMVS in phase III. EEAS and AMAT discussed outreach efforts within the EU and plans for providing briefings to CONOP and COARM during their monthly sessions. In addition, AMAT will ask to hold bilateral meetings with various interested member states to discuss arms control and export control related issues. EPF also expressed its willingness to contribute to the testing and finetuning of the tool based on their experiences and expertise. The workplan was well received by the EU agencies and AMAT will work in close coordination with them during the first year of phase III to coordinate the piloting of the self-assessment tool.