

PRESS RELEASE
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SALW Guide \ Update of the interactive information portal on small arms control

Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and working in close co-operation with the Verification Center of the *Bundeswehr*, BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) has been developing the interactive information portal SALW Guide (salw-guide.bicc.de) since 2012. With this update, all collected information on small arms and light weapons (SALW) will become even more readily accessible.

“Even if it is not always obvious from reports on conflicts: Small arms and light weapons are responsible for more victims than any other kind of weapon; their destabilising effect is a decisive obstacle to development for the affected countries,” comments **Thomas Göbel**, Head of Division, Conventional Arms Control, at the Foreign Office. **“The Small Arms Guide helps to quickly and reliably identify small arms and light weapons worldwide and thus supports our efforts to curb the illicit trafficking of arms.”**

The portal contains, for instance, technical details on individual types of weapons, their different versions and their proliferation, which are illustrated by photographs of the weapons, detailed illustrations of differentiating criteria as well as photographs and sketches not only of markings by producers and producing countries but also of their position on the weapon. It also contains information on the ammunition used by small and light weapons. Besides a content-related update and extension, it above all contains improvements of its function. These allow, for instance, generating reports on single weapon types and their global proliferation or specific country reports for printing. The SALW Guide, which previously was only available in English, is now also available in French. This will increase its usability in the international arena.

The online database has a wide range of uses—from helping to prepare missions involving soldiers or arms control officers in post-conflict countries to determining small weapons ‘in the field’ or training up-and-coming disarmament experts.

But it is not only meant to support experts but also to aid representatives from politics, research and NGOs in their efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trade in SALW.