The German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) and Expertise France (EF) have been mandated to implement the second phase of the EU’s activities in support of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which carries on the successful work done under the first EU ATT Outreach Project (ATT-OP) between 2014 and 2017. This project, which is outlined in Council Decision CFSP 2017/915, is co-financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Government of the French Republic, BAFA and EF.

Objectives

The main objectives of this project are to promote the effective implementation of the ATT by supporting beneficiary countries in strengthening their arms transfer control systems and to work towards the universal adoption of the treaty. In order to achieve these goals, this EU project strives to establish and strengthen expertise and arms transfer control capacities in the beneficiary countries and to foster involvement of the relevant national agencies and representatives, as well as regional actors and organisations. Especially with regard to the universalisation of the ATT, outreach not only to beneficiary countries but also to their neighbours, as well as through regional fora and organisations represents a key component of the actions undertaken within the project.

Activities

The project offers dedicated national assistance programmes to strengthen long-term partnerships with beneficiary countries and to address multiple national implementation priorities through tailored assistance activities. These roadmap-based assistance programmes are developed in close cooperation with the partner countries.

In addition to the comprehensive partnerships, ad-hoc assistance activities allow for a flexible and quick response to individual requests for support. Furthermore, regional outreach seminars provide a platform to discuss specific regional challenges relating to the ATT, share best-practice models, involve civil society actors and foster regional cooperation.

In addition to the individual activities with the partner countries, the project actions also focus on expanding the existing pool of experts and include a
“train the trainer” component to coach experts from the partner countries so as to ensure a more sustainable impact of the activities.

Finally, the closing conference as well as the side events to the annual ATT Conference of State Parties provide an opportunity for the representatives of the partner countries to exchange experiences and work together on long-term ATT implementation.

Overview of Project Content

Assistance to Long-Term Partner Countries

- Two-day workshops in the beneficiary countries to follow up on the work and achievements through the roadmaps under the previous EU ATT Outreach Project.
- Study visits to EU Member States and third countries to train government, licensing and enforcement officials of the beneficiary countries.

Regional outreach seminars will be organised in partnership with the long-term partner countries acting as mentors on arms transfer issues for neighbouring countries.

Roadmap-based Assistance Workshops

- New roadmap-based partnerships will respond to assistance requests from countries who have not previously participated in roadmap-based cooperation.
- An expert assessment visit will first be carried out to the partner country to establish cooperation and gather relevant information. Subsequently, a tailored assistance roadmap will be developed to meet the needs and priorities of the beneficiary partner country.
- Assistance activities (such as legal reviews, training seminars and workshops) will be used to advise on legal and administrative measures for effective ATT implementation, and to build up the required expertise and capacity.

Ad-Hoc Assistance Workshops

Ad-hoc activities will also be organised for non-roadmap partner countries who are interested in receiving short-term assistance on specific aspects of the treaty.