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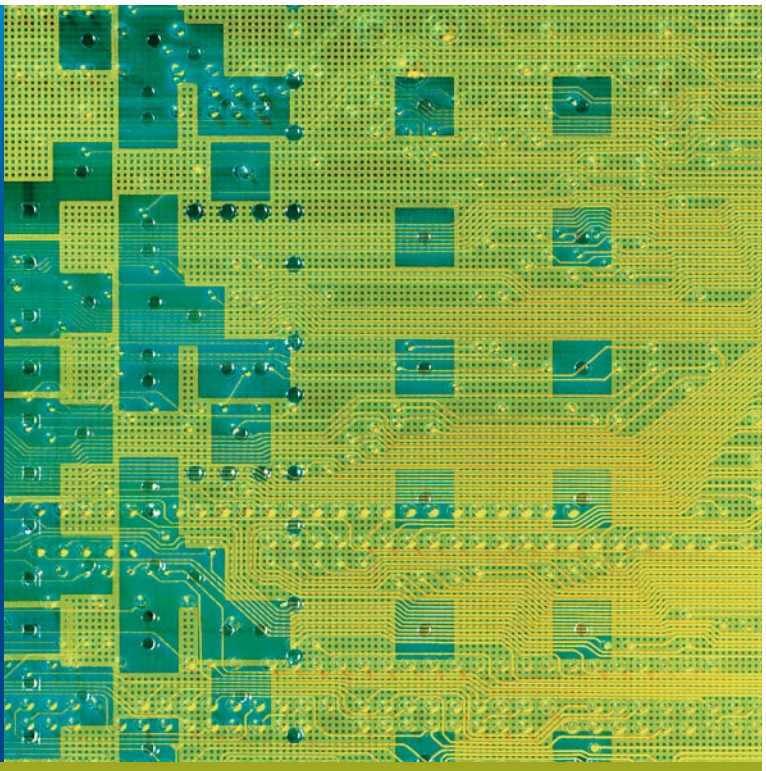

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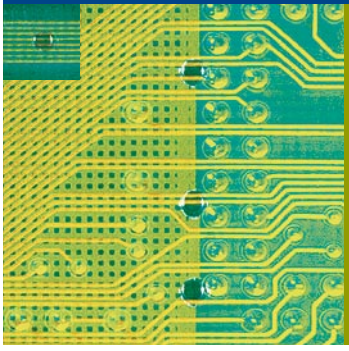
www.nato.int/science

Guide to the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme



Science, Peace, Security

Guide to the NATO

Science for Peace and Security Programme

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The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme sponsors practical cooperation between scientists from NATO member, Partner, and Mediterranean Dialogue countries on security-related issues in the fields of civil science, environment and technology. The programme seeks to develop recommendations and solutions for a variety of problems in these fields, as well as to respond to the needs of partner countries. Overall, the aim is to contribute to security, stability and solidarity among NATO Partnership for Peace as well as Mediterranean Dialogue nations, by facilitating collaboration, networking and capacity-building, while promoting the application of the best technical expertise to problem solving.

This guide provides information on the **SPS** Programme, its Key Priorities, the types of activities that are sponsored, and how to apply for a grant.

SPS Key Priorities:

- ⇨ Defence Against Terrorism
- ⇨ Countering other threats to security
- ⇨ Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue country priorities

Anyone wishing to apply for a NATO grant will find full information and application forms at: www.nato.int/science

The SPS Programme

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme was launched in 2006, replacing the programmes that had been run under the previous Science Committee and the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS). The programme is overseen by the new SPS Committee. This Committee - which is subordinate to the NATO's governing body, the North Atlantic Council - also advises the Council and other NATO bodies on security-related civil scientific, environmental and technological issues.

The SPS Programme offers grants for collaboration between scientists in NATO member states and countries that are associated with NATO through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and through the Mediterranean Dialogue. Grants are also offered to assist academic communities in Partner countries to set up basic computer networking infrastructure.

The SPS Committee identifies a number of Key Priorities, aligned with NATO's objectives, which it addresses through a programme for scientific and technical cooperation carried out in academic, governmental and non-governmental frameworks. Activities consist of workshops, training courses, exchanges of experts and longer-duration projects, which lead not only to the formulation of specific recommendations but also to tangible products, capacity-building and the creation of international networks organised to address partner priorities.

NATO allocates a budget for the SPS Programme which enables it to initiate and to sustain activities as a basis for securing longer-term funding sources. By means of this budget, NATO can provide "seed money"

The SPS Committee advises the North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal decision-making body, on security-related civil scientific, environmental and technological issues.

to pursue Key Priorities at a critical stage when no other funding sources are available. This budget is funded collectively by all NATO nations. In addition to activities funded directly by NATO, additional SPS nationally-initiated activities can be directly funded by groups of nations when regional and local interests prevail.

Staff support for the SPS Committee is provided by a secretariat in NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy.

Which countries participate?

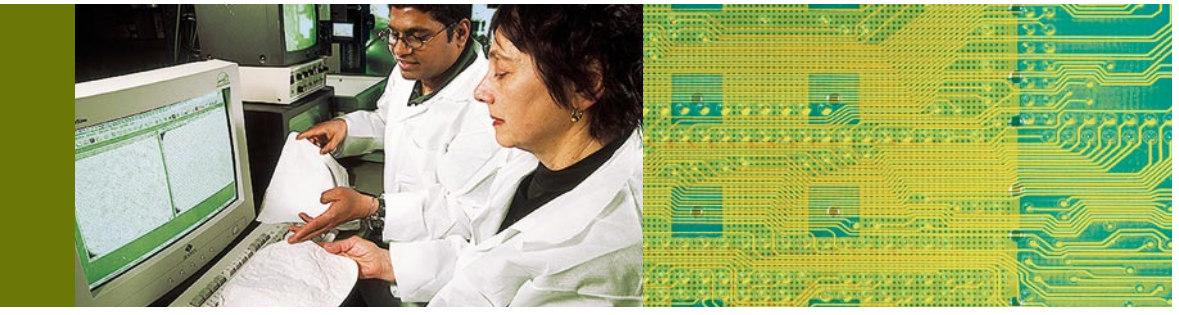
The SPS Programme encompasses NATO member states, the Russian Federation and all other Partner countries, and countries cooperating with NATO through its Mediterranean Dialogue.

NATO member states:

The members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Partner countries:

The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council is a mechanism which provides the overarching framework for political and security-related dialogue and cooperation between NATO member states and Partner countries. These Partner countries are: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan,



the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. Among these countries, Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland participate in SPS activities at their own expense.

The NATO-Russia Council:

A special, NATO-Russia cooperative programme is carried out within the framework of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) Committee on Science for Peace and Security. When such activities also involve other Partner countries, they are usually carried out within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

Mediterranean Dialogue countries:

NATO is engaged in consultation and cooperation with seven countries of the Mediterranean region - Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia - through the Mediterranean Dialogue.

* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

What are the Key Priorities?

The Key Priorities identified by the SPS Committee currently lie in three general scientific and technical areas:

⇨ **Defence against terrorism:** topics in this area include: detection of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons or agents; physical protection against such weapons or agents; methods to destroy such weapons or agents; methods to decontaminate areas following the use of such weapons or agents; methods to respond medically to such weapons or agents; and methods to protect against efforts by terrorists to destroy the environment or vital computerised infrastructure.

⇨ **Countering other threats to security:** topics in this area encompass threats which pose risks to security and stability. These

SPS Key Priorities:

⇨ Defence against terrorism
⇨ Countering other threats to security
⇨ Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue country priorities

include issues of environmental security such as desertification, land erosion and pollution of common waterways (which may lead to regional or cross-border disputes); defence-related environmental issues; and technical, economic and social factors underlying the management of vital resources, such as food and energy.

⇨ **Partner-country priorities:** topics in this area are identified in documents agreed by NATO and individual Partner countries, which provide the overall framework for co-operation according to each country's particular interests and needs. The topics generally coincide with the Key Priorities but may have a more regional nature. A list of these topics is available on the SPS Programme's website.

Complementing these three general areas is a programme to improve the access of research communities in Partner countries to the Internet through the Virtual Silk Highway project and other initiatives.

How are proposals for programme activities initiated?

All activities undertaken in the framework of the SPS Programme originate in one of three ways:

- ⇨ as proposals initiated by national authorities;
- ⇨ as proposals initiated by NATO itself;
- ⇨ as proposals solicited from individual experts in the academic or industrial community.

Activities in the first category are generally funded by the proposing nations while activities in the latter two categories are generally funded from the NATO Civil Budget. Nationally funded activities are directed by an individual appointed by the lead country. NATO-funded activities are co-directed by experts from a NATO member state and a Partner country or Mediterranean Dialogue country.

Proposals for nationally-initiated activities

Proposals can be made by any NATO, Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue country, because of their natural and regional impor-

The NATO-funded Virtual Highway brings global Internet connectivity to 9 countries in Central Asia and the South Caucasus: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

tance. Such activities are included in the SPS Programme if they are approved by the SPS Committee with the condition that a sufficient number of nations (at least four) have expressed collective interest and are willing to commit the necessary resources.

A proposal for a nationally-initiated activity is prepared by the national authorities of one country and is tabled by the national SPS representative for agreement by the SPS Committee. Persons interested in initiating such proposals are encouraged to contact their national representatives in the NATO SPS Committee.

Proposals for activities initiated by NATO

The SPS Committee, its Secretariat or any other NATO body may propose high-priority topics for which "top-down" initiation of the activity is desirable. These may include the priorities of Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. Coordinated Priority Initiatives (CPIs) are also identified, which group together individual activities in a related area.

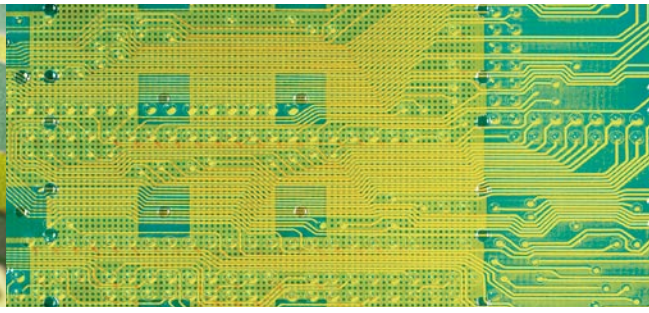
Proposals for activities initiated by individual experts

Experts, who are usually affiliated with academic or industrial organisations, may prepare proposals in response to announcements of the Key Priorities, which are published on the SPS Programme website and in other sources. These announcements also include the priorities of NATO Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. Proposals are prepared using forms available on the Programme's website. Proposals may be submitted at any time. However, to maximise the efficiency of the review process, three annual deadlines have been established: the first day of March, July and November.

A SPS Science for Peace Project developed a mobile plant to convert *mélange*, a highly toxic rocket fuel (pictured opposite), into a low-grade fertiliser in Azerbaijan.

Advisory Panels

Applications are peer reviewed by Advisory Panels of experts, appointed by the SPS Committee. The Advisory Panels meet three times a year to review applications received before the three annual deadlines. The Advisory Panels determine whether proposals are relevant to the key priority areas and assess their technical content and relevance to security.



The Advisory Panels also assist the SPS Committee and Secretariat in other undertakings requiring their expertise. At present, there are four Advisory Panels which span the range of disciplinary expertise represented in the priority research areas. These panels are:

- ⇨ **The Chemistry, Biology and Physics Panel (CBP)**
- ⇨ **The Environmental Security Panel (ESP)**
- ⇨ **The Information and Communications Security Panel (ICS)**
- ⇨ **The Human and Societal Dynamics Panel (HSD)**

What types of activity are sponsored?

Whether an SPS-sponsored activity is initiated by a nation, by NATO or by an individual expert it consists of one or a combination of the following mechanisms:

- ⇨ **SPS Workshops,**
- ⇨ **SPS Expert Exchanges, and**
- ⇨ **SPS Projects.**

At present, each of these is further divided into sub-mechanisms. These sub-mechanisms will be harmonised gradually as the new SPS Programme is implemented and as simpler, consolidated proposal forms become available.

SPS Workshops are meetings conducted for purposes of information exchange, sharing experiences, or for training. The following sub-mechanisms are included in this category:

- ⇨ Advanced Study Institutes (ASIs) are high level tutorial courses organised to convey the latest developments in a subject to an advanced (PhD level) audience.

SPS Activities consist of workshops, training courses, expert exchanges and longer-duration projects.

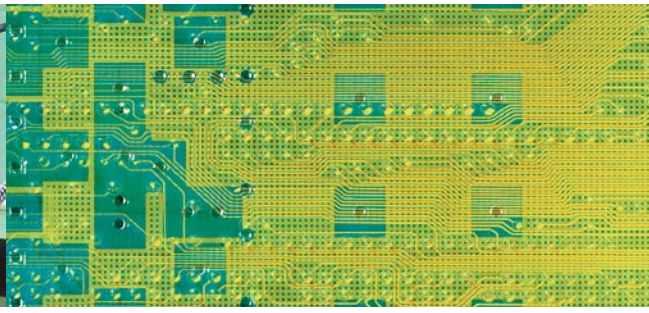
- Advanced Research Workshops (ARWs) and Advanced Networking Workshops (ANWs) are intense but informal exchanges of views at the frontiers of a subject aimed at identifying directions for future action.
- Advanced Training Courses (ATCs) are courses which enable specialists in NATO member states to share their expertise with trainees from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries.
- Topical Workshops (TWs) are nationally-funded recurring events such as round tables, international conferences and seminars which address topics of continuing interest.

Participation in SPS Workshops

The co-directors of NATO SPS-sponsored meetings are awarded a NATO grant to support the costs of participants from NATO, Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue countries. Enquiries concerning such participation should be addressed to one of the co-directors, whose names appear in the calendar of meetings that is published on: www.nato.int/science

SPS Expert Exchanges are temporary arrangements for specialists from Partner countries to work in laboratories or other facilities located either in NATO member states or, in the case of Partner nationals returning from abroad, in their own countries. The following sub-mechanisms are included in this category:

- Collaborative Linkages Grants (CLGs) enable the pooling of ideas and resources in joint research activities and in the creation of specialist networks.



- Reintegration Grants (RIGs) allow young scientists from Partner countries working or studying in NATO countries to return and reintegrate into the research communities of their home countries.

SPS Projects are activities of a more prolonged and targeted nature. The following sub-mechanisms are included in this category:

- Networking Infrastructure Grants (NIGs) assist research institutions in Partner countries to improve the level and quality of their computer communication facilities.
- Science for Peace (SfP) Projects enable experts to collaborate on multi-year applied research and development projects in Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue countries.
- Pilot Studies (PSs) are generally of a regional nature and take place over one to five years. These nationally-funded projects frequently address defence-related environmental issues.

Additional details as well as the application forms for these mechanisms are provided on the Programme website at:
www.nato.int/science

Who can apply for a grant?

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must be an expert in the field for which he/she is applying and must be resident in a NATO, Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue country with mailing address and contact details in that country. (The person should be settled in the country and not just a visitor.)

Dr. Aigul Omarova (2nd from left) who was awarded a NATO Reintegration Grant, is involved in investigating the radiological contamination of the territory of the Semipalantinsk Nuclear Test Site in north east Kazakhstan.

NATO
member countries
Partnership
for Peace countries
Mediterranean
Dialogue countries
ICELAND
NORWAY
SWEDEN
FINLAND
ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
RUSSIA
UNITED KINGDOM
DENMARK
IRELAND
NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM
BELARUS
POLAND
GERMANY
CZECH REPUBLIC
LUXEMBOURG
SLOVAKIA
UKRAINE
MOLDOVA
FRANCE
AUSTRIA
SWITZERLAND
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
SERBIA
MONTENEGRO
ROMANIA
BULGARIA
KAZAKHSTAN
UZBEKISTAN
KYRGYZ REP.
TURKMENISTAN
TAJIKISTAN
GEORGIA
AZERBAIJAN
ARMENIA
TURKEY
GREECE
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
HUNGARY
ALBANIA
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
ISRAEL
CANADA
UNITED STATES

An application is only eligible if submitted jointly by two persons from:

⇨ a NATO and a Partner country, or

⇨ a NATO and a Mediterranean Dialogue country.

Any other combination (such as NATO-NATO, Partner-Partner, Partner-Mediterranean Dialogue) is not eligible.

In addition to the two main applicants, an application will often include other participants from different NATO, Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue countries, depending on the topic of the application.

SPS Publications

⇨ Science for Peace and Security Series

The results of SPS Workshops are published in the NATO Science for Peace and Security Series by a consortium of science publishers, currently Springer Science and Business Media in Dordrecht and IOS Press in Amsterdam. These publishers maintain websites, which generally provide contents and abstracts of the volumes, as well as prices and ordering information.

⇨ SPS Focus

This forthcoming publication will take a look in-depth at the work of the SPS Programme in specific areas, for example, defence against terrorism. This publication will be available to order online via the SPS website.

For more information on the SPS grant application process go to **www.nato.int/science**

⇨ Internet Publishing

A selection of publications in the Science for Peace and Security Series, are also available in electronic format via: www.springer.com and www.iospress.nl

⇨ Publication Grants

Upon application to NATO, a supplementary grant may be made to the organisers of SPS-sponsored activities to prepare the manuscript of a book describing the results of the activity in a form suitable for publication in the Science for Peace and Security Series. The grantee undertakes to produce the manuscript electronically or in hard-copy form in a format specified by the publisher.

Contact information

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Public Diplomacy Division

Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme

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www.nato.int/science

General questions about the Science for Peace and Security Programme may be sent to

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