

## ALGERIA

### Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Algeria has been involved in NATO science activities since 2001. In total, scientists and experts from Algeria have had leading roles in 18 activities, and more have joined various cooperative activities as key speakers and participants.

Today, NATO science activities enable close collaboration on the two key priorities of **Defence against terrorism** and **countering other threats to security** and are managed under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. SPS activities contribute to NATO's strategic objective of

partnership, helping to connect scientists and experts from NATO countries with their counterparts from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries through workshops, training courses, team collaborations and multi-year projects.



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All activities supported by the SPS Programme are approved by NATO nations on the basis of consensus.

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### Examples of Activities

An SPS Advanced Research Workshop addressing **“Corrosion Protection of Pipelines Transporting Hydrocarbons”** took place in Biskra, Algeria on 26-28 April 2010. Pipelines are an increasingly important means through which large volumes of hydrocarbons are transported over long distances in the Mediterranean region. Internal corrosion of these pipes poses a serious threat to the environment and general health of the surrounding populations. This workshop helped to raise awareness, share experience and good practices amongst operators. It demonstrated the need to bridge the gap between the scientific community,

regulatory bodies and operators by using Information Technology Tools to facilitate team work, networking and information sharing. [ref 983731]

An SPS Advanced Training Course focusing on **“Water Purification and Management in Mediterranean Countries”** took place on 16-20 November, 2009 in Oviedo, Spain. The main goal of the training course was to address the technical topics related to the management of water; a key resource in Mediterranean countries. The organisers highlighted all aspects of water management like water purification,

clean industrial processes as well as Waste-water treatment. The poor management of scarce water resources is adding to social and economic problems in North Africa and the Middle East, which leads to mass migratory population displacement, from countries like Algeria, to the wealthier and more water abundant countries of Europe; particularly Spain, Italy and Greece. [ref 983750]

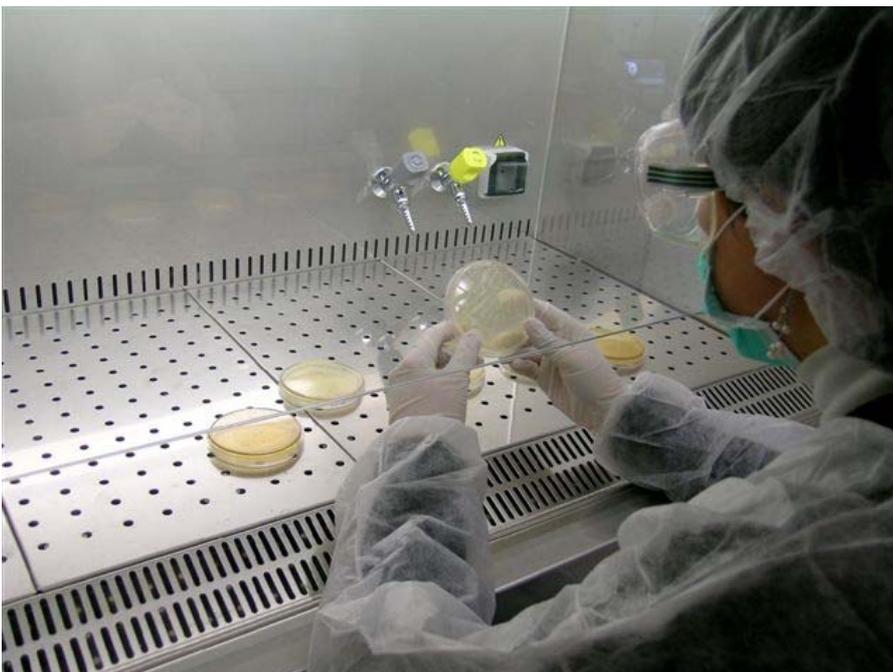
The Pasteur Institute of Algiers is currently involved as a collaborating institution with scientists from Belgium and Tunisia in a multi-year SPS project to develop **“Novel Agents to Neutralize Toxicity of Venom Polypeptides”**. This project has included the identification of a

Mediterranean region have been collected and purified. New antibody-based agents to neutralise the poison have been produced and an antibody library has been constructed. All antibodies will be ranked according to their neutralizing capacity which will allow the selection of the best therapy. [ref 981865]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as pilot study on **“Food Chain Security”**, which was conducted in cooperation with the European Science Foundation (ESF). Experts from Algeria joined their counterparts from NATO, Partner and other Mediterranean

Dialogue countries to examine the safety and security of the food system in the face of careless or ignorant handling, as well as potential terrorist attacks. The study includes the development of protective and response measures to reduce risk and mitigate the consequences of these incidents, which could destroy or degrade the food system at the source, or during distribution, processing or consumption. Over five years, nine meetings were held to enable high-level technical discussions among the

international experts. The main outputs were the identification of common weaknesses and comparison of food systems among countries and a final report. [ref 982184]



Bacteria in Petri-dishes are used to amplify genetic information. (Photo courtesy of the Co-Directors.)

new heavy chain antibody-based neutralizing agent and the development of therapies. Since the start of the project in May 2005, toxins from poisonous agents that are common in the