

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been involved in NATO science activities since 2007. In total, scientists and experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina have had leading roles in seven activities, and more have joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.

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

On 19 – 20 November 2009 an Advanced Research Workshop broke the subject of **“Homeland Security Organization in DAT”** into five panels and 12 subject areas. Each aimed to look at the area of Homeland Security to initiate discussion and debate among the selected audience. The workshop director looked at a recent UK study on Homeland Security and broadly followed the model adopted for it. It took the main component areas of Homeland Security Organization and found relevant subject matter experts to write papers and present their findings, including the author of the UK report. This approach also looked at getting as wide an opinion base as possible by including speakers from NATO, PfP and non-NATO countries. The event took a holistic approach to terrorism and looked at the problems emanating from different terrorist

groups (i.e. Al Qaeda and separatist groups) as well as the problems faced by various NATO nations. It also focused on the reasons people resort to becoming terrorists and the methods of preventing or reversing this process. [ref 983687]

An SPS workshop, focused on **“Damage Assessment and Reconstruction after Natural Disasters and Previous Military Activities”**, took place in October 2008 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main goal was to provide a critical assessment of the current knowledge and the new challenges in dealing with manmade and natural disasters, resulting in damage to structures, infrastructure and human environment. The workshop organizers' hope was that the results, pertaining to the best way of reducing the negative impact of

disasters, would be applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond. Ultimately this will contribute to sustainable development and decreased emigration from the area. [ref 983112]

form of modern technologies, expertise and a focus on remediation. It will contribute to the economic and political security of the region by enhancing sustainable regional development and environmental security.



A house in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been damaged by ground deformation and sink holes caused by abandoned mines. (Photo courtesy of project co-directors)

Recommendations for stabilization of the surface and guidelines for urban planning policy and management will be developed. End-users include the University of Tuzla, the municipality of Tuzla and Tuzla Canton. [ref 983305]

A project aimed at **“Harmonization of Seismic Hazard Maps in the Western Balkans”** involves Bosnian experts and participants from all other Balkan Partner countries (Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*), as well as Croatia and Albania. The project will

ensure the harmonization of data in one of the most seismically active regions on earth and enable seismic maps and monitoring

systems to be upgraded to meet European standards. In addition, experts from Slovenia provide training, and experts from Greece are active in information sharing. The harmonized map will be a decision-making tool for urban planning, disaster response and new building codes. This project is conducted in coordination with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) of the Stability Pact. In July 2008, the six Balkan institutions involved signed a Protocol on Multilateral Cooperation in Seismic Data Exchange with the aim of improving cooperative professional and scientific relationships in the region. [ref 983054]

A new project, **“Monitoring Risks of Subsidence Deformation on the Population of Tuzla”** is focused on a densely populated area in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where abandoned salt and coal mines pose a hazard to the infrastructure and population, due to ground deformation and sinkholes. The project, involving Bosnian and Italian scientists, will bring together a huge amount of historical data on the mining areas, such as their geotechnical and hydrological features, in order to produce detailed risk maps for endangered areas to be used for long-term planning and risk mitigation. Since the local community has had limited capabilities to deal with this situation, the project will supply those capabilities in the

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