



LITHUANIA

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Lithuanian scientists and experts have had leading roles in 118 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 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

The NATO Advanced Study Institute supported a tutorial training course on **“Crystallography in the Fight against Bio-Terrorism”** which took place in May/June 2008. The trainees, who included students from Lithuania, were introduced to techniques to combat biological menace. Topics included understanding the key properties for drugs; therapies for neglected and emerging diseases; and design of anti-infective drugs. [ref 983028]

Lithuania provided a key speaker to the NATO Advanced Research Workshop **“Intelligent Borders or no Borders”** that took place in May 2008 in Budapest and brought together specialists who are involved in the development of border control and intelligence applications and cutting edge technologies. Topics discussed

included monitoring the individual, inform management, weapons of mass destruction and legal implications. [ref 982714]

“Building Transparency and Integrity in a Nation’s Defence Establishment” was the topic of a NATO Advanced Research Workshop that took place in July 2007 at the Defence Academy of the UK. Key speakers included experts from the “Special Investigation Service of Lithuania” located in Vilnius. [ref 982927]

Experts from Lithuania, Israel and the United States have worked together in an applied project to improve the **“Ultra-Violet Detectors in Homeland Defence”** that can detect a missile launch. In the framework of the project, a prototype of a new photo-detector will be built that will be able to



detect the radiation that is emitted during a missile launch with increased sensitivity compared to the current state-of-the-art detectors. The researchers aim at a factor of 3 increase in missile detection range for aircraft-mounted UV detectors. The completion of the prototype is expected in August 2009. [ref 981939]

Lithuanian trainees also participated in the NATO Advanced Study Institute on “**Energy and Environmental Challenges to Security**” which dealt with post-conflict and



Photo courtesy of Prof. Leonid Chernyak

Young scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, perform surface photo-voltage measurements in a project co-directed by Lithuanian scientists to improve devices used to detect missile launches.

transboundary environmental challenges; transatlantic energy security and climate change. At the special session on the “International Community’s Approach” representatives of the six organizations, including UN agencies, OSCE and NATO, that are coordinating their activities under

the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative briefed the audience on their experiences. [ref 982867]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as the series of topical workshops on “**Environment Management Systems (EMS) in the Military Sector**” which brought together experts from Lithuania with other NATO and Partner countries. The experts agreed that while fulfilling their military mission, NATO Forces should be committed to taking all reasonably achievable measures to protect the environment. Environmental planning is an essential process for ensuring appropriate environmental protection, based on STANAG 7141. Several NATO working groups emphasize the need for education and an EMS Handbook was published. [ref 982701]

The nationally funded workshop “**Risk Assessment and Environmental Security in the Baltic Sea Region**” that took place in Vilnius in May 2008 was organized by Prof. Vytautas Ostasevicius, Chairman of Technical Sciences of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The workshop brought together 44 experts mainly from littoral countries of the Baltic Sea discussing amongst other topics the Problems and Environmental Safety in the Lithuanian Area of the Baltic Sea and the Security Issue in Oil and Gas Pipeline Operation. The event was opened by Mr. Petras Vaitiekunas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; Mr. Zenonas Rokus Rudzikas, President of Lithuanian Academy of Sciences; and H.E. Mr. Linas Linkevicius, Ambassador of Lithuania to NATO. [ref 983465]