



POLAND

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Polish scientists and experts have had leading roles in 542 activities, and more joined various cooperative activities as 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.



Examples of Ongoing Activities

An upcoming training course in Krakow-Zakopane, Poland, entitled “**Rapid Diagnosis in Population at Emergency and Risk**”, will take place on 19-24 October 2009. The course will focus on methods of diagnosis of DNA and cytogenetic damage in people exposed to CBRN agents. Experts from the fields of toxicology, molecular biology, cytogenetics and epidemiology will help the transfer of state-of-the-art knowledge in biological dosimetry in order to improve monitoring of populations at risk. [ref 983317]

As part of an ongoing project entitled “**Nanosecond Radiation Pulses for Rapid Explosives Detection**”, scientists

from Poland, Russia and Estonia have cooperated since July 2005 to produce two different sources of intense, nanosecond-pulse neutron and X-ray radiation for use in the detection of explosives and nuclear agents. The unique features of these sources of radiation and detection methods are expected to increase the likelihood that hidden explosives can be detected at lower radiation doses and with better signal-to-noise ratios. The developed technology will be combined with the results of a related project supported by the European Commission, which is focused on detection systems. A likely application of these combined systems is

the detection of explosive materials hidden in luggage at airports. The project's end-users include three companies working to develop equipment for border security. [ref 981118]



CERTs has contributed to capacity and expertise-building

Ongoing networking projects with Polish leadership include the creation of **Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)** to respond to events such as cyber-terrorism attacks on in NATO Partner countries such as in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. These teams

equipped with hardware such as servers and workstations and are trained to recognise, analyse, respond rapidly to incidents in order to limit damage and lessen recovery costs. The creation of CERTs has contributed to capacity and expertise-building and has increased the robustness of academic networks in the respective countries against attacks.

[ref 982716]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as the pilot study “**Sustainable Use and Protection of Groundwater Resources: Transboundary Water Management**”, led by Polish and Ukrainian experts. The main focus of the study is the development of transboundary water-quality monitoring and assessment between the two countries, as well as of regional and

international cooperation on monitoring, contamination migration and water management issues. The project builds on previous Polish-Ukrainian activities in water resources management in order to integrate Ukraine into the European water management system and lower the likelihood of geopolitical conflicts and economic instability caused by water shortages. In September 2008, the experts gathered in Shatsk, Ukraine to exchange methods and techniques and to participate in collaborative field work.

[ref 983082]