

## PORTUGAL

### Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Portuguese scientists and experts have had leading roles in 211 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.

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 17 to 18 May 2010 an Advanced Research Workshop, entitled “**Perceptions of NATO: A Balance 60 Years Later**” was held at the Portuguese Institute of International Relations in Lisbon, Portugal. This workshop provided an assessment of the global perceptions of NATO, especially amongst the younger generation. This SPS event evaluated how NATO is seen both in member countries and in countries that do not belong to the organization. The workshop also gave special attention to the revision of NATO's Strategic Concept, intended to equip the Alliance with tools to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The organisers of the event analysed the scope and nature of NATO's actions and outlined the role the organization in the New World Order. This will prove to be a central question at the upcoming NATO Summit in Lisbon. [ref 983540]

Portuguese scientists are involved in the project “**Strategies for the Elimination of Phenol-polluted Soil and Ground Water**”

that brings them together with teams from Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. Since January 2007, these scientists have cooperated in measuring and cataloguing phenol pollution in their countries. The effects of on microorganisms in the soil and sediments are being studied and remedial strategies are being developed. [ref 981674]

Portuguese scientists from Aveiro are in the lead of a newly awarded project entitled “**Remediation Processes in Uranium and other Mining Explorations**” which aims at the isolation of metal resistant microorganisms that are living in symbiosis with plants. They will be characterised and used to make new plants resistant to toxicity and therefore able to grow on contaminated mine areas.

Their ability to stabilise heavy metals and to reduce the soil toxicity will be evaluated in laboratories and in field trials. The overall goal is to enlarge the population of plants that can live on the polluted soil and transfer them to



Image courtesy of Ruth Perreria, University of Aveiro.  
Mines where iron and copper were extracted.

local authorities and mine owners for reforestation and remediation of the polluted soil in Portugal, Tunisia and Morocco. [ref 983311]

In May 2008, the University of Evora organised an Advanced Research Workshop on **“Constructal Human Dynamics, Security and Sustainability”** at their premises that attracted around 30 scientists from Portugal, France, Canada, US and Ukraine. Priorities that were addressed at the workshop included design of human movement and infrastructure (e.g. flow of people, goods, energy, air traffic and information), logistics and optimal placement of decontamination equipment for safety purposes. [ref 983416]

The Advanced Research Workshop **“Nanomaterials: Environmental Risks and Benefits”** that took in April 2008 place in Faro brought together 70 scientists and engineers

from 19 different nations and multiple fields. The participants summarised the potential benefits, the known potential environmental and human health risks and suitable methods for reconciling the benefits and risks for the consumer. Tools to reduce technical uncertainties and immediate needs for regulations were considered. [ref 982634]

An Advanced Research Workshop on **“Piracy and Maritime Terrorism: Logistics, Strategies, Scenarios”** took place in May 2008 in Lisbon. During the 4-day event, for which the Instituto Superior de Ciencias

do Trabalho e da Impresa provided expertise, the trend of increasing numbers of attacks was investigated. The experts agreed on the necessity for training the crews in the protection and prevention procedures which is often neglected today. Furthermore, all speakers emphasised that piracy cannot be prevented without fighting corruption and enhancing efficient law enforcement on land. Real dialogue among law enforcement agencies, through comparing data, sharing case studies, examining good practices, presenting solutions and proposals, and creating links and partnerships is essential. [ref 983098]

The SPS programme has also engaged a number of Portuguese consultants to lend their expertise in various fields—such as adsorption materials, catalysts and superconductors—to technical advice and monitoring of projects on security applications.