



SLOVENIA

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Slovenian scientists and experts have had leading roles in 105 activities, and more joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.



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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 8 -11 October 2009 an Advanced Research Workshop on **“Returnees and the Social Reconstruction of Communities Affected by Armed Conflict”** took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. The workshop, led by a Slovenian expert, gave an overview as well as an insight into the situation of returnees in the regions of the Balkans and Caucasus by assessing their negative and/or positive contribution to the social recovery of communities affected by inter-ethnic conflicts. The forum of 37 participants promoted social stability by brainstorming ways of supporting the social group of returnees and therefore preventing them from becoming a social risk factor. The participants, who consisted of scholars, representatives of international NGO’s, social

systems and donor organizations, gave proposals for the successful reintegration of returnees into the society. The results of the workshop have been applied at a local level and at the level of relevant international agencies and for activities run by NGO’s. The participants have proposed a follow-up workshop in 2010, with suggestions of Budva, Montenegro as a possible location. [ref 983756]

Investigators from Slovenia, Ukraine, Italy and Canada are developing **“Tantalum-Free Microwave Dielectric Resonators”** in order to find an affordable solution for safer and more reliable wireless data transmission, to be used in communication systems. To this end, they are working to

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

develop improved microwave dielectric resonators and to understand how crystalline structural defects in BCN (barium cobalt niobate) or BCN ceramics contribute to dielectric loss. They have also worked on tailoring the dielectric properties of these ceramics by optimizing processing conditions and dopant concentrations. Preliminary tests of the improved dielectric resonators have shown advantages in comparison to currently commercially available resonators when used in microwave oscillators operating in the frequency range of 15-17 GHz. [ref 980881]

Investigators from Slovenia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have cooperated since February 2006 in a project to manage uranium industry wastes in order to prevent adverse effects on the health of local populations and on the environment. The project, “**Uranium Extraction and Environmental Security in Central Asian Republics**”, involves determining how radionuclides migrate, the extent of local contamination and the doses to which different population groups have been exposed, with particular focus on drinking-water supplies near uranium tailing and waste ore deposits. Since the start of the project, missions to selected uranium waste sites, including Minkush and Kadji Sai in the Kyrgyz Republic. The results of this work are of particular interest to various municipal and national regulatory authorities in the participating countries. [ref 981742]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as “**Clean Products and Processes (Phase II)**”.

Experts from Slovenia participated in the pilot study, along with those from 30 other NATO and Partner countries with the goal



Dr. Ljubica Jelušič, former chair-woman of the SPS Advisory Panel on Human and Societal Dynamics, was appointed as Minister of Defence of Slovenia in 2008.

of creating an international forum for cleaner industrial process applications and production. By discussing and debating current trends and developments, and sharing expertise in the use of cleaner technologies and production of cleaner products, the participants aimed to stimulate effective technology transfer. The final meeting was held on 4-9 May 2008 in Berlin, Germany. [ref 981928]