

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA¹

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ has been involved in NATO science activities since 1998. In total, scientists and experts from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ have had leading roles in 58 activities, and have joined other 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.

Examples of Activities

An SPS workshop in Skopje on 26-28 May 2009 brought together experts to “**Develop Innovative Approaches for Human Security**”. The workshop examined current perceptions of human security challenges in southeastern Europe and contributed to a regional network to engage policy-makers, public servants, civil society leaders and experts to share experiences concerning security sector and other reforms relevant to countries aspiring to NATO and EU membership. It also examined how NATO and EU engagement policies could be synchronized to catalyze the stabilization and integration of the region. [ref 983561]

On a similar topic, a training course on 25 June–5 July 2009 examined “**The Role of Security Sector Governance for the**

Democratic Transition of the Western Balkans”. The participants reviewed past achievements of the countries in the region and outlined their outstanding tasks related to security sector governance. The aim was to strengthen civilian control and oversight of the security sector by fostering active civil participation and thereby contributing to the process of democratization in the Western Balkans.[ref 983664]

A project aimed at “**Harmonization of Seismic Hazard Maps in the Western Balkans**” involves experts from all Balkan Partner countries—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹—as well as Albania and Croatia. The project will ensure the harmonization of data in one

¹Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

of the most seismically active regions on earth and enable seismic maps and monitoring systems to be upgraded to meet



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Damage from a 1968 earthquake of magnitude 6.2 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹.

European standards. The harmonized map will be a decision 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]

Scientists from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ have worked since December 2005 to achieve “**Sustainable Management of the International Waters – Prespa Lake**”, one of the largest lakes in

the country. Along with researchers from Albania, Greece and the United Kingdom, they have cooperated in an effort to understand the mechanisms behind the loss of water from Lake Prespa. The aim is to formulate recommendations for sustainable use of the watershed. There has been extensive interaction with responsible individuals in the local governments of the Prespa and Resen municipalities, as well as with the Institute for Hydrometeorology in Skopje and the Institute for Hydrobiology in Ohrid. [ref 981116]

An ongoing SPS project in the field of communication security has brought together experts from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Greece, Denmark and Romania to develop “**Reconfigurable Interoperability of Wireless Communications Systems (RIWCoS)**”. In the past decade, the mobile communications systems in southeastern European countries have reached their full capacity, which presents a risk at hours of peak usage and in periods of crisis. By offering a choice between alternative wireless networks, the RIWCoS provides the required level of robustness and enables any changes in resource availability due to network saturation or equipment crashes to be bypassed by adapting dynamically to the new situation. This project aims to integrate different wireless communications technologies into a common, easy-to-use infrastructure that is compatible with international standards. [ref 982469]

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