

NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme

Update of Cooperative Activities with TUNISIA

Update: April 2008

Introduction

TUNISIA has been involved in the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 1999. 34 Tunisian scientists had a leading role with responsibility for a team of experts in SPS funded activities.

Awards in 2007

A list of activities awarded in 2007, in which Tunisian scientists have a leading role, is attached as ANNEX 1. Peer-reviewed by the SPS Advisory Panels and subsequently approved by NATO nations and finally by the chairman of the SPS Committee, ASG-PDD, these activities will be launched within two years following the award.

Upcoming events

Technical Workshops and Training Courses are included in the Calendar available at www.nato.int/science.

Ongoing SFP Projects

Unlike the above mentioned events, SFP projects have a longer duration, normally 3-5 years. These projects are aiming at problem solving and capacity building. While NATO SPS covers direct costs, such as equipment, consumables, travel and training, the nations involved cover the overhead costs, such as salaries, running costs and maintenance and tax. For many projects, nations also contribute additional funds. Mediterranean Dialogue countries are expected to support the implementation of project results.

A list of ongoing projects, in which Tunisian scientists have a leading role, is attached in ANNEX 2.

Examples of Activities

Novel Agents to Neutralize Toxicity of Venom Polypeptides

(ref. SFP-981865)

Scientists from Tunisia and Belgium are collaborating on an SFP project to develop agents capable of neutralizing the toxicity of polypeptide venoms. This has involved the identification of a new heavy chain antibody-based neutralizing agent and the development of therapies. Since the start of the project in May 2005, toxins from the venom of scorpions have been collected and purified, and dromedaries were immunized using these. An antibody library has been constructed, and all antibodies have been ranked according to their neutralizing capacity.

Elimination of Poly-Chlorinated Phenols from Forest Soils And Ground Waters
(ref. SFP-981674)

Investigators from Tunisia, Morocco, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom have collaborated since January 2007 on a project to identify sources of pollution in Mediterranean and European oak forests. The plan has been to measure the polychlorinated phenol (PCP) classes that are dispersed in the soil (at different depths), groundwater and sediments of these forests. Other chemical contaminants such as pesticides and wood preservative are also being identified. Project objectives include studying the effects of pollutants on these ecosystems and developing remedial strategies.

Nationally Funded Activities

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of Nationally Funded Activities, formerly called "CCMS Studies". More information is available at www.nato.int/science.

Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme
Awards made in 2007 to Scientists from TUNISIA

Annex 1
Country Report, April 2008

Ref. No	Panel	Prog	Activity	Title	Co-Directors	Institute	Town	Country
982928	HSD	MD	ARW	Human Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Region	Alouane, Youssef	Université de Tunis	Ariane	Tunisia
					Henriques, Mendo	Universidade Catolica Portuguesa	Lisboa	Portugal
982802	CBP	MD	CLG	Gold and Niobium Microelectrode Biosensors for Pathogenic Avian Influenza (PAI) Diagnostic	Abdelghani, Adnane	Institut Preparatoire aux Etudes Scientifiques	La Marsa	Tunisia
					Jaffrezic-Renault, Nicole	Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 1	Villeurbanne	France
					Fethi, Diuoani	Pasteur Institute	Tunis	Tunisia
					Mamantos, Prodromidis	University of Ioannina		Greece
				Rochdi, Kherrat	University Badji Mokhtar Annaba		Algeria	
982955	CBP	NUKR	CLG	Bio/Chemical Sensors for Detection of Toxins in Fish Meat	Gayda, Galina	NAS of Ukraine	Lviv	Ukraine
					Vocanson, Francis	University Jean Monnet	Saint-Etienne	France
					Biloivan, Olga	NAS of Ukraine	Kyiv	Ukraine
					Dridi, Cherif	Institut Supérieur des Sciences Appliquées et de Technologies	Sousse	Tunisia
				Zine, Nadia	Bioengineering Institute of Catalonia (IBEC)	Barcelona	Spain	
983115	CBP	MD	SFP	Advanced Apparatus for Pathogen Detection	Abdelghani, Adnane	Institut Preparatoire aux Etudes Scientifiques	La Marsa	Tunisia
					Baldrich, Eva	Centro Nacional de Microelectronica	Barcelona	Spain
983127	CBP	MD	SFP	Rapid Pathogen and Toxin Detection Using Arrays of Magnetoelastic Sensors	Othmane, Ali	Medical University of Monastir	Monastir	Tunisia
					Ong, Keat	Michigan Technological University	Houghton, MI	United States
LEGEND								
Panel	CBP	Chemistry/Biology/Physics						
	HSD	Human and Societal Dynamics						
Prog	MD	Mediterranean Dialogue initiative						
Activity	ARW	Advanced Research Workshop						
	CLG	Collaborative Linkage Grant						
	SFP	Science for Peace Planning Grant						

TUNISIA Ongoing SFP Projects					
Ref. No	Title	Co-Directors	Institute	Town	Country
981674	Preventive and Remediation Strategies for Continuous Elimination of Poly-Chlorinated Phenols from Forest Soils And Ground Waters	Hassen, Abdennaceur	National Institute for Scientific & Tech Research	Hamam Lif	Tunisia
		Silva Pereira, Christina	Instituto de Biologica Experimental e Tecnologica	Oeiras	Portugal
		Blaghen, Mohamed	University Hassan II-Aïn Chock	Casablanca	Morocco
		Hursthouse, Andrew S.	University of Paisley	Paisley	United Kingdom
		Mazzoleni, Valeria	Instituto di Enologia e Ingengneria alimentare	Piacenza	Italy
981865	Novel Agents to Neutralize Toxicity of Venom Polypeptides	El Ayeb, Mohamed	Institut Pasteur de Tunis	Tunis-Belvédère	Tunisia
		Muyldermans, Serge	Flanders InterUniversity Inst. for Biotechnology	Brussels	Belgium