SPS ACTIVITIES WITH ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE (ICI) COUNTRIES

**June 2004**
Launch of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative at the NATO Summit (Istanbul), with the aim to contribute to long-term global and regional security by offering countries of the broader Middle East region practical bilateral security cooperation with NATO.

**January to March 2005**
Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar formally join the ICI.

**June 2005**
The United Arab Emirates formally joins the ICI.

**March 2008**
The first SPS activity with the United Arab Emirates: the Advanced Research Workshop, “Enhancing Women’s Roles in International Countering Violent Extremism Efforts” is held in Madrid, bringing together more than 20 experts from NATO and Partner nations and resulting in a publication (link: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_168106.htm).

**January 2017**
Inauguration of the NATO-ICI Regional Centre in Kuwait. The NATO-ICI Regional Centre is the hub for training and other activities between NATO and ICI Partners.

**September 2017**
An SPS Information Day is held at the NATO-ICI Regional Centre in Kuwait, resulting in a package of tailor-made training courses in the Key Priorities of: CBRN Defence, Critical Infrastructure Protection, and Cyber Defence [web story: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_149963.htm?selectedLocale=en].

**January 2019**
The first SPS Multi-Year Project with an ICI Partner is launched. Qatari and Canadian experts start working on the project, “Protection/Resilient Control of Cyber-Physical Systems against Malicious Attacks” in response to the SPS special call for proposals on Cyber Defence.

FACTS AND FIGURES
PARTICIPATION OF ICI COUNTRIES IN SPS ACTIVITIES

- 8 activities with ICI countries
- 1 Multi-Year Project (MYP)
- 2 Advanced Research Workshops (ARW)
- 5 Advanced Training Courses (ATC)
- 176 trainees and lecturers in 5 SPS ATC at the NATO-ICI Regional Centre
- 57 trainees and speakers at 2 ARWs

Activities focus on the SPS Key Priority areas of Cyber Defence, Counter-Terrorism, CBRN Defence, Critical Infrastructure Protection