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The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package

The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) aims to strengthen Georgia's ability to defend itself and advance its preparations for NATO membership. The package is composed of defence and related security capacity building initiatives. It involves support for all military services and branches, advice and liaison at all levels (strategic, operational, tactical), capacity-building and training activities, and multinational exercises. As of early 2022, all NATO members and two partner countries have provided support to the implementation of the package in the form of expertise and resources.

Cyber Defence

The Cyber Defence Initiative is one of 16 interrelated initiatives under the SNGP. The Initiative aims to strengthen Georgia's cyber defence capacity and expand its capabilities in accordance with NATO standards. Overseeing the timely implementation of key milestones related to the Initiative's end state, a NATO experts team led by Estonia provides routine support and advice to its Georgian counterparts.

The Cyber Defence Initiative is focused on the institutional level and applies NATO-compatible Information Technology Assurance standards and practices in Georgia's defence sector. The Initiative aims to develop cyber awareness training for all echelons of the Defence Ministry and Georgian Defence Forces, expand Georgia's participation in NATO-led cyber exercises, and enhance the Defence Ministry's cyber forensics and incident response capacity.



In January 2016, the Cyber Security Bureau located within Georgia's Ministry of Defence formally joined NATO's Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP) and in 2020 the Bureau received the status of "full participant". The Bureau has benefited from participation in CYBER COALITION, the largest NATO cyber exercise, and the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence's exercise LOCKED SHIELDS. Within SNGP's framework, the Bureau hosted its second "Intermarium Cyber Security Forum" in October 2021. The Forum brought together representatives from nine NATO members and one partner country for discussions related to cyber threats and strengthening international cooperation in the field of cyber security.

Beginning in 2022, Georgia's Defence Institution Building School (a flagship initiative under the SNGP) will partner with the Cyber Defence Initiative to establish a Cyber Security and Information Technology Study Programme. Initially, the programme will address Georgia's civil service and military professionals' critical learning gaps. Pending a review, programme participation may be extended to select partners in the wider Black Sea region.

Today, with SNGP support, cyber resilience and the establishment of a cyber security culture represent a top priority for the Ministry of Defence. With financial assistance from NATO's Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Trust Fund, the Cyber Defence Initiative plans to establish a Cyber Lab in Georgia. The Cyber Lab project is led by the Netherlands and, once completed, will enhance Georgia's human, technical and procedural cyber capabilities to counter threats that may affect the military Computer Information Systems' functionality, the security of services, and critical infrastructure.

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