

## NATO SCIENCE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025-1

The NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme promotes dialogue and practical cooperation between NATO member states and Partner countries based on scientific research, technological innovation and knowledge exchange. It enables scientists, experts and officials from NATO and Partner nations to work together to address emerging security challenges and their impact, by supporting activities in the form of four established grant mechanisms, which are:

1. Multi-Year research and development Projects (MYP)
2. Events, in the following formats:
  - a. Advanced Research Workshops (ARW)
  - b. Advanced Training Courses (ATC)
  - c. Advanced Study Institutes (ASI)

Through the SPS Programme, NATO has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to science, innovation and practical cooperation with Partners. The SPS Programme offers funding, expert advice and support to tailor-made, civil security-relevant activities that respond to NATO's strategic objectives. Participation in the SPS Programme enables experts and scientists to develop innovative solutions to today's security challenges, and to build partnerships with their peers in NATO and Partner nations.

For more information on the SPS Programme and its activities, please visit the NATO SPS website at [www.nato.int/science](http://www.nato.int/science).

### **BOUNDARIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

This call for proposals welcomes applications responding to any of the SPS Programme's Key Priorities outlined in the Annex. **Note that the SPS Programme has adopted a revised list of Key Priorities in 2024.**

This call for proposals welcomes applications for Multi-Year Projects and Events (Advanced Research Workshops, Advanced Training Courses and Advanced Study Institutes).

Proposals for Multi-Year Projects should research and develop innovative solutions and demonstrators. They should also demonstrate a solid and long-term approach, indicating clearly the expected maturity (Technology Readiness Level) to be reached, and how additional actors (e.g. industrial partners, programmes, national funding, end users, etc.) will be involved in further developing and exploiting the results of the SPS-supported activity after its conclusion. Proposals should also include plans for the demonstration of the achieved results (prototypes, simulators, demonstrators, etc.) to key stakeholders. Proposed activities that rely on data should outline a data exploitation plan for the collection of existing data, the creation of new datasets and their management during and after the project. Data exploitation plans

should also highlight risks related to the data to be used for the activity (e.g. in terms of access, privacy, security, ethical aspects, etc.), as well as valid mitigation strategies.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Only applications meeting all of the following criteria will be taken into consideration.

### **General eligibility criteria**

Applications submitted to the SPS Programme must:

1. Contribute toward NATO's strategic objectives and have a clear link to security;
2. Address at least one of the SPS Key Priorities;
3. Be developed jointly by scientists or experts from at least one NATO member country and one eligible Partner nation.
  - All participants in the proposed activity must be nationals of a NATO member country or a NATO Partner country;
  - Each activity must include a scientist or expert taking on the role of NATO country Project Director (NPD). This person must be resident and employed in a NATO member country;
  - Each activity must include a scientist or expert taking on the role of Partner country Project Director (PPD). This person must be resident and employed in an eligible Partner nation (see list below);
  - Additional co-directors from either NATO or eligible NATO Partner nations may be included in proposals for Multi-Year Projects.
4. Be developed and implemented by co-directors employed by government, academic, or other non-profit institutions. For-profit private companies are not eligible for SPS funding;
5. Include realistic plans and budgets;
6. Be developed and managed in alignment with rules and regulations outlined in the SPS handbooks available on the SPS website at the following link: <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/88007.htm>.

Individual applicants should note that they may not hold more than one SPS grant at a time. Prospective co-directors should ensure that any other SPS activity directed by either of them is formally closed before applying.

### **Eligible countries**

Individuals from the following countries are eligible to participate in activities supported by the SPS Programme:

**NATO member countries:** Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, the Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America.

**Eligible NATO Partner nations:** Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Malta, Mauritania, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

To familiarize themselves with information required to submit a complete proposal, potential applicants may find templates of the application forms for SPS each grant mechanisms on the SPS website under the heading “Managing SPS grants”.

However, proposals must be drafted and submitted via the SPS grant platform (<https://natosps.grantplatform.com/>). Proposals submitted in any other format or means (e.g. via email) will not be taken into consideration.

Therefore, interested applicants must:

1. Register an account on the SPS grant platform.
2. Identify available opportunities on the SPS grant platform homepage.
3. Click on “Start application” to access the application form, select the grant mechanism they are interested in, and submit their proposal.

All documents required to submit a complete application are accessible via the application form on the SPS grant platform. They are also available for download on the SPS website under the heading “Managing SPS grants”.

Especially for applicants who are not familiar with the SPS grant platform, the SPS Programme strongly advises against last minute submissions.

## **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5 January 2025 (23:59 CET)**

Applications must be submitted before the deadline stated above. Data pertaining to incomplete applications will be lost after the deadline.

All relevant enquiries prior to application submission should be addressed to [sps.info@hq.nato.int](mailto:sps.info@hq.nato.int). The SPS Programme will inform all applicants about the result of the evaluation of their proposal in due course, regardless of the outcome.

*The NATO SPS Programme is committed to diversity and inclusion, and welcomes eligible applicants from all NATO and eligible Partner countries, independent of gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, religion or belief, cultural background, sexual orientation, and disability.*

# ANNEX

## SPS KEY PRIORITIES

All activities funded by the SPS Programme must address at least one of the SPS Key Priorities.

In 2024, NATO Allies agreed on a revised list of thematic priorities for the SPS Programme, to maintain its focus on current and emerging security challenges that define NATO's strategic environment. These new SPS Key Priorities are listed below, without any indication of priority.

### 1. Environment, Climate Change and Security

- a. Understanding, mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change on security, including military operations and missions;
- b. Increased awareness on security issues arising from key environmental and climate change challenges, including health risks, scarcity of resources, increasing energy needs, and space weather events;
- c. Approaches to reduce the environmental impact of military activities;
- d. Disaster forecast and prevention of climate-related natural catastrophes.

### 2. Energy Security

- a. Dual-use innovative energy solutions; battlefield energy solutions; renewable energy solutions with dual-use applications;
- b. Energy infrastructure security, including technological aspects of energy security;
- c. Energy transition by design, i.e. transition from fossil fuels to innovative and more sustainable energy sources;
- d. Energy supply chain.

### 3. Innovation and Emerging Disruptive Technologies (EDTs)

- a. Emerging technologies with the potential of having a profound impact on security, including:
  - i. artificial intelligence (AI);
  - ii. autonomy;
  - iii. quantum;
  - iv. biotechnologies and human enhancement;
  - v. space;
  - vi. novel materials and manufacturing;
  - vii. energy and propulsion;
  - viii. next-generation communications networks;
- b. Defence against adversarial use of EDTs;
- c. Advanced and novel technologies in the field of security.

### 4. Counter-terrorism

- a. Detection technologies against the terrorist threat of explosive devices and other illicit activities;
- b. Solutions to Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED);
- c. Defence against terrorism misuse of technology, for example Countering Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS);
- d. Human factors in the defence against terrorism, including Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE);
- e. Risk management, best practices and technologies in response to terrorism, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Defence.

## **5. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) and Explosive Hazards Management**

- a. Mine and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) detection;
- b. Methods and technology regarding the protection against, diagnosing effects, detection, decontamination, destruction, disposal and containment of CBRN Agents;
- c. Risk management and recovery strategies and technologies;
- d. Medical countermeasures against CBRN Agents.

## **6. Defence against Hybrid Threats**

- a. Technological solutions and approaches to prepare, deter and defend against the coercive use of political, energy, information and other hybrid tactics by states and non-state actors;
- b. Solutions and approaches to prepare, deter and defend against hybrid tactics, both directly and through proxies, as authoritarian actors challenge our interests, values and democratic way of life;
- c. Practical tools to monitor, analyse, raise awareness on, and counter disinformation, including through cooperation with technological industries and social media platforms, such as generative artificial intelligence and deep fakes;
- d. AI tools, including reverse image technology, to detect malicious information activities;
- e. Early warning tools to detect potential hybrid activities, including in the information space.

## **7. Resilience**

- a. Solutions to strengthen national preparedness;
- b. Crisis management and civil preparedness, including inter-agency coordination mechanisms;
- c. Digital resilience, including methods, procedures and technologies to ensure continuity of digital services during crises;
- d. Protection of critical infrastructure, supplies and personnel;
- e. Border and port security technologies.

## **8. Critical Underwater Infrastructure**

- a. Monitoring and protection of critical underwater infrastructure;
- b. Technology for the detection of threats on surface and underwater;
- c. Protection of harbours and infrastructures in shallow waters.

## **9. Cyber Defence**

- a. Technologies to ensure confidentiality, integrity and availability of communication networks;
- b. Support in developing cyber defence technologies and infrastructure;
- c. Best practices and information sharing;
- d. Cyber defence situational awareness;
- e. Cyber support to operations and missions.

## **10. Assessing and addressing threats posed by the Russian Federation**

- a. Approaches and tools to counter hostile information activities (including disinformation) against Allies and Partners;
- b. Identification of trends and lessons learned for hybrid threats emanating from the Russian Federation.

## **11. Strategic Foresight**

- a. Main trends in international security and associated implications;
- b. Regional strategies in the field of defence and security;
- c. Understanding of the future security environment;

- d. Early warning systems and indicators.

**12. Human and Social Aspects of Security**

- a. Women, Peace and Security (WPS);
- b. Human Security;
- c. Cultural and social aspects in operations and missions.

**13. Operational Support**

- d. Identifying and sharing best practices in operations and missions;
- e. Civilian support to operations and missions.

**14. Other**

- a. Any other proposal clearly linked to the implementation of NATO's core tasks may also be considered for funding under the SPS Programme.