Cooperation between the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme and Ukraine

Facts and Figures

The SPS Programme is an established brand for NATO based on the pillars of science, partnership security and beyond and has been contributing to the core goals of the Alliance for many decades. As a partnership tool, it forges connections between scientists, experts and officials from Allied and Partner nations, who work together to address shared security concerns. The Programme provides funding and expert advice for security-relevant activities in the form of workshops, training courses, or multi-year research projects.

Active engagement between Ukraine and the SPS Programme dates back to 1991 and has been deepening ever since. In response to the crisis in Ukraine and following the political guidance provided by NATO Foreign Ministers in April 2014, scientific and technological cooperation with Ukraine in the framework of the SPS Programme has increased substantially.

How many SPS activities with Ukraine are there?

Since 2014, a total of 49 SPS activities with Ukraine were launched. These include 40 Multi-year Research Projects, 7 Advanced Research Workshops and 2 Advanced Training Courses.

Top-down flagship SPS projects include:

- A Multinational Telemedicine System
- Support to Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine
- Remediation of a Fuel Polluted Military Site in Kyiv
- Development of an Advanced X-ray Generator

Multi-year Research Projects

More than 600 international scientists and experts are currently participating in the 35 ongoing multi-year research projects that are led by Ukraine and NATO member states. Within the scope of these projects, more than 250 young scientists, many of them Ukrainian, received the opportunity to pursue research in their field of interest, together with their scientist counterparts in NATO countries. Moreover, among these scientists, the SPS Programme provided financial support in the form of stipends to over 100 young scientists to kick-start their academic career.

Ongoing and completed multi-year research projects since 2014 have already produced more than 190 scientific publications in acclaimed journals. At the same time, over 14 patents were claimed. The Institute for Scintillation Materials at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) are only a few examples of stakeholders that are supported by the SPS Programme. In many cases, the Programme has provided Ukrainian projects with modern equipment and...
state-of-the-art technologies to cope with the many emerging security challenges brought about in a high-threat environment. Project directors clearly identify end-users, mainly government institutions, to further ensure the sustainability of the projects.

Advanced Research Workshops

Ukrainian experts were involved in the organization of seven Advanced Research Workshops that were held across the Euro-Atlantic region. Next to Ukraine, venues included the United States, Belgium, the Republic of Moldova and Slovakia. 190 key speakers, among them 55 Ukrainian experts, contributed to discussions with the aim of addressing contemporary security challenges. 135 additional participants, including 40 Ukrainians, were engaged in these activities. They were given the opportunity to share their experience and knowledge with other international experts in their field. Most recently, the 1985 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, Klaus von Klitzing, spoke at an SPS Advanced Research Workshop in Odessa on the security applications of nanotechnology. On average, experts and participants came from 18 Allied and Partner nations, creating broad networks and forging ties among scientific communities. Since 2014, the findings of four Advanced Research Workshops led by Ukrainian scientists and experts were published in the NATO Science Series, giving them the opportunity to reach out to the wider academic community.

Advanced Training Courses

Two Advanced Training Courses took place since 2014 and trained 37 Ukrainian participants in the domains of cyber security and defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.