

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Austria has been actively engaged within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 1991.

The NATO SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operations and missions, and advancing early warning and forecasting for the prevention of disasters and crises.

The current SPS Key Priorities include:

- *Counter-Terrorism;*
- *Energy Security;*
- *Cyber Defence;*
- *Defence against CBRN Agents;*
- *Environmental Security;*
- *Security-related Advanced Technology;*
- *Border and Port Security;*
- *Human and Social Aspects of Security.*

Additionally, the SPS Programme helps to promote *regional security* through scientific cooperation among partners. The Programme also helps to *prepare* interested eligible nations for NATO membership. SPS activities often have a high *public diplomacy* value.

AUSTRIA

NATO-Austria relations are conducted through the Partnership for Peace framework, which welcomed Austria as a member in 1995. Over the past few years, Austria has been engaged in several activities with the SPS Programme, primarily in the areas of **Counter-Terrorism and Environmental Security**. Through the SPS Programme, scientists and experts from Austria have participated in numerous workshops, seminars, and activities since 2005, on a wide range of topics.

Cooperative Activities

SMART ENERGY IN CAPABLE LOGISTICIAN 2015: FROM OBSERVATION TO RECOMMENDATION

During a three-day Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) held at the Bacyony Combat Training Area in Hungary, 30 experts observed live exercises involving over 50 pieces of smart energy technology.



Two camps with 'micro grids' integrated a number of technologies for smart energy production, storage, distribution and consumption, as well as wearable and portable power systems. The goal of this workshop was to test interoperability within and between Smart Energy Multinational Integrated Logistics Units (MILU), and to assess the standardization of smart energy for the operational environment. This workshop concluded the 'Exercise Capable Logician 2015' programme held in Hungary from 8 to 19 June 2015. *This activity, led by scientists and experts from Austria and Lithuania, took place from 14 to 17 June 2015 in Hungary.* [ref. G5018].

NOVEL TERAHERTZ SOURCES (NOTES)

This Multi-Year Project (MYP) aimed to develop, demonstrate and optimize novel materials and devices, to design powerful, compact, and portable terahertz (THz) sources. THz is already used in defense and security applications to detect chemicals and to identify concealed objects. The main objective of this project was to address issues related to the use of THz and to pave the way for a future portable fiber-coupled and fiber-integrated THz source. It also aimed to test different THz sources providing different potential advantages (e.g. increased efficiency or ruggedness). This project represents a major step in making THz technology practical for deployment by military and security forces. *This project, which concluded in 2017, was led by scientists and experts from Austria and Slovakia.* [ref. G4698].

THE CHALLENGES OF RECONCILIATION IN POST-CONFLICT COMMUNITIES

In 2011, experts from the Omega Transcultural Centre in Austria played an important role in organising an ARW to explore the concept of reconciliation in post-conflict societies. The event also sought to review the good practices and community initiatives that contribute to resuming intergroup relations in post-conflict communities. [ref. 984279].

This workshop built upon the results of a prior ARW entitled 'Returnees and the Social Reconstruction of Communities Affected by Armed Conflict'. *This activity was organised by experts from Austria and took place in Sarajevo in 2009.* [ref. 983756].

THE SPS PROGRAMME IS OPEN TO ACTIVITIES WITH AUSTRIA

Austria has expressed an interest in collaborating with NATO Allies and partner nations on several civilian issues, specifically in areas such as civil emergency planning, disaster relief and prevention, and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related Resolutions. The SPS programme welcomes future cooperation with Austrian scientists and experts.

The SPS Programme is open to all activities with Austria, in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the SPS Key Priorities and the Overarching Guidelines, as well as Austria's national priorities.



The NATO Science for Peace
and Security Programme