

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 forecast 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 Austria joined in 1995. Several key areas for cooperation exist within the framework of the SPS Programme based on shared interests and common security areas of concern. Over the past few years Austria has been engaged in several activities with the SPS Programme, primarily through involvement in several advanced research workshops. Under SPS, scientists and experts from Austria have participated in numerous workshops and seminars on a range of topics. Since 2005, Austrian personnel have participated in over two dozen activities.

Cooperative Activities

SMART ENERGY IN CAPABLE LOGISTICIAN 2015: FROM OBSERVATION TO RECOMMENDATION

During a three-day advanced research workshop held at the Bacony Combat Training Area in Hungary, 30 experts observed live exercises involving over 50 pieces of smart energy technologies. Two camps with 'micro grids' integrated a number of technologies for smart energy



production, storage, distribution and consumption, as well as soldier wearable and portable power systems. The goal of the workshop was to test interoperability within and between Smart Energy Multinational Integrated Logistics Units (MILU), and to assess standardization of smart energy for the operational environment. The workshop concluded 'Exercise Capable Logistician 2015' held in Hungary from 8 - 19 June 2015. [ref. G5018]. *This activity was led by scientists and experts from Austria and Lithuania.*

NOVEL TERAHERTZ SOURCES (NOTES)

This multi-year research project, launched in September 2014, aimed to develop and demonstrate novel materials and devices to pave the way for powerful, compact, and portable terahertz (THz) sources. THz is already being used for defence and security applications, mostly for detecting chemicals and identifying concealed objects. This project aimed to deliver and test three prototype THz sources with different potential advantages (e.g. increased efficiency or ruggedness), and it represents a major step in making THz technology practical for deployment by militaries and security forces [ref. G4698]. *This project, which was concluded in 2017, was led by scientists and experts from Austria and Slovakia.*

THE CHALLENGES OF RECONCILIATION IN POST CONFLICT COMMUNITIES

In 2011, experts from the Omega Transcultural Centre in Austria played an important role in organising a workshop to explore the concept of reconciliation in post-conflict societies [ref. 984279]. The event also sought to review the good practices and community initiatives that contribute to resuming intergroup relations in post-conflict communities. This workshop built upon the results of a prior advanced research workshop entitled 'Returnees and the Social Reconstruction of Communities Affected by Armed Conflict' [ref. 983756] organised in Sarajevo in 2009 by experts from Austria.

THE SPS PROGRAMME IS OPEN TO ACTIVITIES WITH AUSTRIA

Austria has expressed an interest to cooperate with NATO Allies and Partners on several civilian issues, including specific areas such as civil emergency planning, disaster relief and prevention, and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related Resolutions. The SPS Programme welcomes future cooperation with Austrian scientists and experts.

SPS is open to all projects 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

www.nato.int/science