

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Georgia has been actively engaged within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 1994.

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.

GEORGIA

Georgia is a very active partner within the SPS Programme. At present, the leading areas for cooperation include **Cyber Defence, Counter-Terrorism, and Defence against CBRN**. Below are some examples of ongoing and completed projects under the framework of the NATO SPS Programme.

Cooperative Activities

OPTIONS FOR ENHANCED REGIONAL CYBER DEFENCE COOPERATION

Recognising that infrastructure protection and responses to cyber incidents can serve to benefit all neighbours in the Black Sea and South Caucasus region, cyber defence experts and government representatives took part in a workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia on 29 June to 1 July 2015 to discuss options for increased cooperation. More than 50 experts participated from academia, industry, and leading research centres in Europe and the United



States. The initiative aimed to improve regional cooperation by creating trust, information sharing and developing common cyber defence measures. The debate focused on cyber defence topics that require additional research and development, as well as cooperation between the public and private sector, and among nations. As a result of this workshop, participants agreed on both the importance of a regional initiative to protect critical infrastructures, and the need for trainings and work on a follow-on SPS multi-year project is currently ongoing [G5012]. *The project is led by Project Directors from Italy and Georgia.*

SMALL COUNTRIES COMMITTING TROOPS TO OPERATIONS ABROAD

To draw lessons learned from the troop contributions of small countries committing troops to NATO-led operations, two workshops took place in Bratislava, Slovakia and Tbilisi, Georgia in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The overall goal of the project was to develop practical recommendations for building up, training, deployment and interoperability of military units for NATO-led operations and operations under the leadership of other international organizations. The results of analysis was enhanced by applied research aimed to strengthen capacities of primarily NATO partner policy in crisis management as one of the crucial pillars of NATO as formulated in Strategic Concept. An event to present the results of the project is planned to take place in Brussels in the first half of 2016 [G4893]. *The series of workshops was organized by Project Directors from Slovakia and Georgia.*

SPS INFORMATION DAY IN TBILISI

In July 2014, an SPS 'Info Day' was organised to introduce the SPS Programme to a wider audience of government representatives, experts



and scientists. Participants examined key priority areas of cooperation between NATO and Georgia through the SPS Programme, e.g. chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear resilience and cyber defence. They also discussed other global security challenges, including energy security and counter terrorism.

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC TO FIGHT THE CONSEQUENCES OF TERRORISM AND DISASTERS

The public is an important actor in the response to terrorism. Public reaction can multiply or, conversely, mute the effectiveness of a terrorist attack and likewise help or hinder recovery. A workshop took place in June 2014 and focused on sharing best

practices and accumulated experience in methods for informing and engaging the public to deal with the aftermath of a terrorist attack or natural disaster. [ref. 984716]. *This activity was led by scientists and experts from Georgia and the United Kingdom.*

HANDS ON CYBER DEFENCE TRAINING COURSE FOR SYSTEM/NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS

The overall goal of the project is to collect and systematize knowledge on information warfare gained by NATO member and partner countries that encounter such type of information activities, for example Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and NATO member states. This effort will result in the development of policy recommendations for decision-makers in NATO member and partner countries, as well as for the NATO staff in Brussels. The analysis and conclusions will also contribute to the work conducted by the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence in Riga, and facilitate its interaction with non-governmental sectors in NATO member and partner countries. *This activity was led by scientists and experts from Georgia and Slovakia [ref.5125].*

ADDRESSING EMERGING SECURITY RISKS FOR ENERGY FLOWS OVER SOUTH CAUCASUS

Energy security has been high on the list of NATO political priorities and remains to be one of the main factors of mutual interest in Georgia-NATO relations. The goal of this workshop, that is currently pending Allied approval, is to bring together representatives from scientific, governmental and security relevant sectors of energy producing, transit and consuming countries, to discuss the emerging security threats to vital energy networks and ways of addressing them. The focus of the workshop will be on the South Caucasus and the Black Sea region. [ref. G5112]. *This activity will be led by scientists and experts from Georgia and Lithuania.*



The NATO Science for Peace
and Security Programme