KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan has been involved in a number of SPS activities. These include in particular projects and events in the area of Environmental Security and Defence against CBRN Agents. Below are some examples of completed activities led by scientists and experts from Kazakhstan and NATO countries under the framework of the NATO SPS Programme.

Cooperative Activities

VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN CENTRAL ASIA: TRENDS, RESPONSES AND POST-2014 SCENARIOS

The rise of terrorism and the radicalization that feeds it are of significant concern to Central Asian countries. This concern is heightened in light of the conclusion of NATO’s combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, and the fear of spill-over of violent extremism from that conflict. This Advanced Research Workshop aimed to develop a deep understanding of the trends and developments in radicalisation leading to violent extremism in Central Asia, and the impact of the end of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The 45 participants of this event explored the role of government policies which can be counter-productive (e.g. limits on freedom of expression and movement) and discuss local, regional and global policies that could exacerbate or mitigate the trends towards violent extremism. [ref. 984951]. This workshop was led by experts from Kazakhstan and the Netherlands.

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Kazakhstan has been actively engaged within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme since 1993.

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.

www.nato.int/science
ASSESSING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER POLLUTION IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan jointly utilise the Syr-Darya river basin and its divides. They share common issues with regards to industrial, agricultural and municipal river pollution. The problem is further complicated by the poor maintenance of closed or still operating industrial plants as well as by cities along the river basin. As a result, joint monitoring and managing water pollution in the transboundary area is of crucial importance. Towards this goal, this multi-year research project, initiated in 2011, brought together these Central Asian republics to conduct an in-depth study of contaminants in the basin of Syr-Darya river. Ultimately, the aim was to establish a continuous and self-sustainable monitoring activity to be used as a basis for stronger regional cooperation to tackle water pollution [ref. 983945]. This project, led by scientists and experts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Norway, was completed in early 2015.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC POLLUTANTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

This multi-year project brought together a set of scientists and experts to take part in a regional study to examine the major sources of contamination along with associated environmental consequences. One of the goals of the project completed in 2014 was to establish a sustainable regional infrastructure for high quality environmental monitoring for the sustainable control and management of toxic pollutants [ref. 983931]. This project was led by scientists and experts from Kazakhstan, Germany, and Turkey.

COUNTERING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THROUGH ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY

The aim of this training course, carried out with the help of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Internal Affairs, was to explore the role of modern border security in relation to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) with an emphasis on Central Asia. The 30 participants came from four Central Asian states and represented a number of relevant agencies. During the four-day event the participants discussed the nature of the WMD proliferation threat, the post 9/11 impact on border security regimes, key factors relating to border security as well as cross border and regional cooperation [ref. 983662]. This training course was led by scientists and experts from Kazakhstan and the United States.

CENTRAL ASIAN CONTEXT FACTORS & COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO REGIONAL SECURITY

Understanding local cultures, customs, traditions and the geopolitical situation was the focus of this Advanced Research Workshop which aimed to strengthen regional cooperation to address security challenges in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Specialists from military institutions, higher education, research institutions and civil society were brought together to set an agenda for research and policy development that would include building trust and tolerance between different groups, ethnicities and nations towards developing a comprehensive approach to conflict management in the region [ref. 984745]. This workshop held in 2014 was led by experts from Kazakhstan and the United States.

THE SPS PROGRAMME IS OPEN TO ACTIVITIES WITH KAZAKHSTAN

The SPS Programme is open to projects with Kazakhstan, in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines, as well as Kazakhstan’s national priorities.