The Kyrgyz Republic 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 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.

The Kyrgyz Republic has been involved in several SPS activities. So far, leading areas for cooperation have included Environmental Security, Cyber Defence, and Counter Terrorism. Below are some examples of completed activities led by scientists and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic and NATO countries under the framework of the NATO SPS Programme.

**Cooperative Activities**

**NETWORK AND INTERNET SECURITY ASSURANCE FOR NATION-WIDE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY**

During this Advanced Training Course (ATC), networking engineers from Afghan universities and governmental institutions were offered extensive hands-on lab work and practical exercises to ensure the successful operation of university networks and the management of their security. Practitioners from the Kyrgyz Research and Education Network (KREN) conducted two-week courses at basic and advanced levels respectively for their colleagues from Afghanistan. The training course was part of a broader effort aimed at improving all levels of education in Afghanistan through the ‘SILK Afghanistan’ Programme. [Ref. 984468]. This activity was led by experts from the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey.
CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

This Advanced Training Course (ATC) took place in June 2012 in Bishkek. Recognising the global nature of the terrorist threat, this course aimed to provide military and civilian experts with a common approach and methodology in order to build their national counterterrorism capacity. To address terrorism effectively, the sharing of experience, expertise and the development of capabilities is of critical importance to build the necessary capacities. The training course was part of a broader capacity-building initiative on counter-terrorism during which participants discussed how to best address the threat and understand the nature of terrorism and the methods used by terrorist organisations [Ref. 984468]. This activity was led by scientists and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey.

ASSESSING TRANS-BOUNDARY WATER POLLUTION IN CENTRAL ASIA

In the summer of 2011, a multi-year project was initiated that brought together scientists to study contaminants in the basin of the Syr-Darya River. This initiative sought to lay the foundation for a permanent joint water monitoring program in the region, recognising the importance of the Syr-Darya water source for all countries in the region. [ref. 983945]. This project, which concluded in 2015, was led by scientists and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Norway.

COUNTERING TERRORIST RECRUITMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF ARMED COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS

A prerequisite to avoiding constant combat situations with terrorist groups within military operations is to break the recruitment process. This Advanced Research Workshop aimed to examine the different recruitment methods used by violent, non-state actors and to consider possible counter-measures. Input from the 28 counterterrorism experts that participated in the event will contribute towards reducing the appeal of local populations to join terrorist cells, creating safer environments during military campaigns, and more importantly, to enhance stability once the military campaign has concluded. [ref. 984858]. This activity was led by scientists and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey.

GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY OF THE TOKTOGUL HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION REGION

Scientists from the Kyrgyz Republic have also worked on a project focused on seismic hazards. The Toktogul region lies in the centre of the largest hydroelectric irrigation area in Central Asia. The aim of the project was to evaluate the seismic security of the region, formulate threat scenarios, develop recommendations for risk mitigation measures and disseminate information on the potential hazards using a GIS database. Another principal objective was to identify the threats arising from earthquake-related disturbances to dumps of uranium tailings. The end-users of the results and recommendations of this study included the relevant ministries in the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, as well as the Kyrgyzenergo Holding Company which runs the Toktogul operation. [ref. 983142]. This project was led by scientists and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.

THE SPS PROGRAMME IS OPEN TO ACTIVITIES WITH THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The SPS Programme is open to all projects with the Kyrgyz Republic, 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 the Kyrgyz Republic’s national priorities.