



## *Developing Practical Cooperation through Science*

**Malta has been engaged in several activities within the framework of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme.**

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.

# **MALTA**

Malta first joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) in 1995 but suspended its participation in 1996, reactivating its PfP membership in April 2008. Malta recognizes that, through the PfP framework, it can help address new security threats and challenges, and contribute to international peace, security and stability. To date, Malta played a leading role in one SPS Programme activity. This activity was the first to be initiated with Malta within this partnership framework.

## *Cooperative Activities*

### **BORDER SECURITY THREATS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

From 2–4 June, 2014, an SPS sponsored advanced research workshop took place in San Giljan, Malta. This senior-level workshop focused on the issue of border security in the Mediterranean region. The event brought together leading policymakers and experts from NATO and partner countries in Europe, the MENA region and the United States, as well as a selection of institutions. The event provided a forum for experts and leaders who engaged in group debate and applied their collective knowledge to come up with joint solutions and policies regarding border security threats and challenges. Developing the best possible practices to meet these challenges will lead to a more secure environment. It will also strengthen local partnerships, which is crucial in terms of fighting border security threats. It brings people with different perspectives and backgrounds together in order to work jointly on solutions that can improve the situation of border security. The organizers would like to see this event as the starting point of a long-term project of convening professionals and experts [ref. 984863]. *The event was led by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), from the University of Malta.*

