



Emerging Security Challenges Division  
Science for Peace and Security Programme

## Guidelines for Applicants: Advanced Training Course

NATO Emerging Security Challenges Division, SPS Programme, Bd. Léopold III, B-1110 Brussels, Belgium

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### Introduction

The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS) seeks to enhance cooperation and dialogue with all partners through civil science and innovation. The SPS Programme offers grants for Advanced Training Courses (ATCs) which enable Specialists in NATO countries to share their expertise in one of the [SPS Key Priority Areas](#) with Trainees, primarily from [NATO's Partner countries](#), but also from [NATO countries](#).

A NATO ATC is not intended to be lecture-driven, but to be of a very intensive interactive nature. The training provided in ATCs is aimed at experts with an appropriate background who wish to learn of recent developments in their areas of expertise. ATCs contribute to the training and motivation of experts in Partner countries, and enable the formation and strengthening of international expert networks.

ATCs should have a minimum of five and a maximum of seven working days in order to allow for sufficient interaction between the participants.

These Guidelines are also available on the NATO website: [www.nato.int/science](http://www.nato.int/science) along with separate guidelines for SPS Project, Advanced Research Workshop, and Advanced Study Institute grant applicants.

### Who Can Apply?

Applications must be submitted jointly by an organizer residing and working in a [NATO country](#) and one residing and working in a [Partner country](#). Individuals from for-profit private companies are not eligible. Both applicants must be fully involved in course organization and the selection of participants. These Co-Directors prepare the training programme, select participants, organize course practicalities, administer the NATO funds, and report to NATO; they generally also serve as Specialists themselves during the course. The Co-Directors should be assisted by a small Organizing Committee from at least two NATO countries selected from amongst the ATC Specialists.

Applicants should note that they cannot have more than one SPS activity running simultaneously. Prospective Co-Directors should ensure that the file on any previous SPS activity directed by either of them is closed before applying to direct another.

### Location

An ATC should preferably be held in a [Partner country](#).

The ATC should be held at a suitable location with all facilities including training rooms and accommodation at the same site. Furthermore, the site should provide a calm and quiet environment, adequate audiovisual and computer facilities, spaces for informal meetings to allow free exchange of views among participants, and easy access to local assistance for practical arrangements such as travel, banking, and so forth.

### Participation

Participation in an ATC is at the discretion of the Co-Directors. Prospective Specialists should be contacted during the preparation of the ATC application and their degree of commitment noted. Applications with low Specialist commitment stand a reduced chance of being awarded.

The Co-Directors and the Organising Committee are responsible for selecting 20 to 50 appropriate Trainees, primarily from [Partner countries](#) although NATO-country Trainees may also be considered. ATC Trainees should be selected on the basis of their qualifications and experience and the benefit that they may draw from the ATC for their future activities.

### Funding

The NATO grant pays for direct organizational expenses of the ATC as well as the travel and living expenses of all Specialists, and to subsidize the attendance of Trainees from [NATO countries](#) and from [Partner countries eligible to](#)

receive NATO funding who are unable to obtain financial support from other sources. The organizers are expected to minimise costs by efficient organization of the course and the choice of location. Organizational expenses should not exceed 25% of overall NATO funding.

The funding awarded for each ATC is determined by NATO, taking into account the number of participants, and the size, duration and location of the course; typical courses average €60,000. The NATO grant will be awarded in Euro, but payment may be made in any currency desired by the Co-Directors. For administrative reasons, the award is made to the NATO country Co-Director who is responsible for coordinating expenditures with the Partner country Co-Director and providing financial reporting to NATO .

Many organizers find that the NATO grant attracts wider support, and joint sponsorship and support are welcome, provided that the course conforms to the ATC format and is designated a "NATO Advanced Training Course".

## Reporting

The NATO country Co-Director, in consultation with the Partner country Co-Director, must submit a General Report to NATO within 30 days of the end of the ATC, and a Financial Report within 120 days. Specific forms for these reports can be found at the SPS website under '[How to report?](#)'.

## Publication

Publication of the results of the ATC as a book in the NATO science series is recommended. The publication should take the form of a textbook written by a team of authors, rather than straightforward proceedings, so that the benefits of the ATC can be extended to experts who did not have the opportunity to participate. Once it has been accepted by the NATO science series publisher, an additional grant may be made available for the preparation of the manuscript; publication outside the NATO science series is not eligible for this additional grant. Co-ordination of the publication is the responsibility of the NATO Co-Director.

## Application and Review Process

After having contacted potential Specialists to gauge their interest and commitment to the proposed ATC, prospective Co-Directors submit the ATC application, available on the SPS website, to the SPS Programme office at [sps.applications@hq.nato.int](mailto:sps.applications@hq.nato.int), in Microsoft Word format if at all possible. This application is reviewed by the SPS staff and by the Independent Scientific Evaluation Group (ISEG) convened by NATO based on:

- scientific and technical quality of the proposed meeting
- importance and quality of the course educational objectives
- design of the teaching programme
- qualifications and level of commitment of the proposed Specialists
- appropriateness and importance of the Trainee audience
- relevance to the [SPS Key Priorities](#)

Applications recommended by the ISEG will then be reviewed by NATO which makes the final decision to fund or reject a proposed ATC.

Applications may be submitted at any time and will be evaluated twice annually by the Independent Scientific Evaluation Group with deadlines for each cycle posted on the [SPS website](#). The overall process for a successful application, from the deadline to confirmation of funding can take up to nine months. Please plan the dates of your proposed ATC accordingly.

## List of Annexes

- Annex 1: SPS Key Priorities
- Annex 2: Eligible Countries

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\* Award payments can be withheld if it becomes known that irregularities have been committed during the organisation of the ATC.



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**ANNEX 1: SPS Key Priorities**

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All activities funded under the SPS Programme must address the SPS Key Priorities listed below and must have a clear link to security and to NATO's strategic objectives.

- 1) **Facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including international efforts to meet emerging security challenges**
  - a) *Counter-Terrorism*
    - i) Methods for the protection of critical infrastructure, supplies and personnel
    - ii) Human factors in the defence against terrorism
    - iii) Detection technologies against the terrorist threat for explosive devices and other illicit activities
    - iv) Risk management, best practices and technologies in response to terrorism.
  - b) *Energy Security*
    - i) Innovative energy solutions for the military; battlefield energy solutions; renewable energy solutions with military applications;
    - ii) Energy infrastructure security;
    - iii) Maritime aspects of energy security;
    - iv) Technological aspects of energy security.
  - c) *Cyber Defence*
    - i) Critical infrastructure protection, including sharing of best practices, capacity building and policies;
    - ii) Support in developing cyber defence capabilities, including new technologies and support to the construction of information technology infrastructure;
    - iii) Cyber defence situation awareness.
  - d) *Defence against CBRN Agents*
    - i) Methods and technology regarding the protection against, diagnosing effects, detection, decontamination, destruction, disposal and containment of CBRN agents;
    - ii) Risk management and recovery strategies and technologies;
    - iii) Medical countermeasures against CBRN agents.
  - e) *Environmental Security*
    - i) Security issues arising from key environmental and resource constraints, including health risks, climate change, water scarcity and increasing energy needs, which have the potential to significantly affect NATO's planning and operations;
    - ii) Disaster forecast and prevention of natural catastrophes;
    - iii) Defence-related environmental issues.
- 2) **Enhance support for NATO-led operations and missions**
  - a) Provision of civilian support through SPS Key Priorities;
  - b) Provision of access to information through internet connectivity as in the SILK-Afghanistan Programme;
  - c) Cultural and social aspects in military operations and missions;
  - d) Enhancing cooperation with other international actors.
- 3) **Enhance awareness on security developments including through early warning, with a view to preventing crises**
  - a) *Security-related Advanced Technology:*  
Emerging technologies including nanotechnology, optical technology, micro satellites, metallurgy and the development of UAV platforms.
  - b) *Border and Port Security*
    - i) Border and port security technology;
    - ii) Cross border communication systems and data fusion;
    - iii) Expert advice and assessments of border security needs and best practice.
  - c) *Mine and Unexploded Ordnance Detection and Clearance*
    - i) Development and provision of advanced technologies, methodologies and best practice;
    - ii) Solutions to counter improvised explosive devices (IED).
  - d) Human and Social Aspects of Security related to NATO's strategic objectives

*Title, Co-Directors*

**ATC application**

**NATO Internal Use:**

- 4) Any project related clearly linked to a threat to security not otherwise defined in these priorities may also be considered for funding under the SPS Programme. Such proposals will be examined for links to NATO's Strategic Objectives.



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**ANNEX 2: Eligible Countries**

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## NATO Countries

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

## Partner Countries

*all are eligible to participate as Co-Directors, Experts, or Trainees*

### Trainees eligible for up to 100% NATO subsidy

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

### Trainees eligible for up to 80% NATO subsidy

Belarus, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>\*</sup>,

### Trainees not eligible for NATO subsidy

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Finland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malta, New Zealand, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates

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<sup>\*</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.