



The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

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May 2010

CZECH REPUBLIC

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Czech scientists and experts have had leading roles in 357 activities, and more joined various cooperative activities as participants.

Today, NATO science activities enable close collaboration on the two key priorities of **defence against terrorism** and **countering other threats to security** and are managed under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. SPS activities contribute to NATO's

strategic objective of partnership, helping to connect scientists and experts from NATO countries with their counterparts from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries through workshops, training courses, team collaborations and multi-year projects.



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All activities supported by the SPS Programme are approved by NATO nations on the basis of consensus.

Examples of Activities

On 19 to 23 May 2010 an Advanced Research Workshop led by a Czech scientist focused on “**Advanced Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment: a Road to Safer Society and Environment**”. This SPS event brought together scientists from various NATO and Partner countries in order to discuss recent advances in the field of municipal and industrial water supply and wastewater treatment. This event focused on the issues related to lowering the risk of failure and malfunctioning of the water supply/wastewater treatment systems by application of advanced methods of water treatment, rational water

management aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability and also by considering other important issues in this field. [ref 983957]

The Czech water company Aqua Procon Ltd. located in Brno organised together with the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, an SPS research workshop on “**Risk Management of Water Supply impaired by Operational Failures, Natural Disasters and Conflicts**”. This five-day event took place in October 2008 with more than 40 highly specialised experts who sought solutions

*Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

for emergency access to safe drinking water, wastewater and sanitation systems following natural disasters, conflicts or terrorist attacks. [ref 983329]

As part of the new project **“Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis of Obsolete Pesticides”**, scientists from the Czech Republic, Greece and Armenia are cooperating in a project to catalogue polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other discarded pesticides, which will lay



Dump Site Sampling.

the groundwork for their proper disposal. The task is to compile an inventory of the stocks of these chemicals throughout the territory of the Republic of Armenia and to map the contaminated sites where these chemicals have been used. The project's implementation also entails the establishment of an analytical laboratory with modern equipment and instruments and training for personnel. This laboratory will be used not only in the assessment of existing chemical stocks and areas of contamination, but also for monitoring

PCBs in soil, surface waters, food and agricultural products on a continual basis. An accompanying assessment will also be made of the health risks posed by obsolete pesticides and PCBs. [ref 982812]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as pilot study on **“Food Chain Security”**, which has been conducted in cooperation with the

European Science Foundation (ESF). Experts from the Czech Republic joined their counterparts from other NATO and Partner countries to examine the safety and security of the food system in the face of careless or ignorant handling, as well as potential terrorist attacks. The study includes the development of protective and response measures to reduce risk and

mitigate the consequences of these incidents, which could destroy or degrade the food system at the source, or during distribution, processing or consumption. Over five years, nine meetings were held to enable high-level technical discussions among the international experts. The main outputs were the identification of common weaknesses and comparison of food systems among countries and a final report. The last meeting of the pilot study took place on 19-20 September 2008, in Antalya, Turkey. [ref 982184]

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