

GREECE

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Greek scientists and experts have had leading roles in 473 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

An ongoing SPS project in the field of information and communication security has brought together experts from Greece, Denmark, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* to develop **“Reconfigurable Interoperability of Wireless Communications Systems (RIWCos)”** that are more flexible and robust. In the past decade, the mobile communications systems in southeastern European countries have reached their full capacity, which presents a risk at hours of peak usage and in periods of crisis or disaster. By offering a choice between alternative wireless networks, the RIWCoS provides the required level of robustness. It enables any changes in resource

availability due to network saturation or equipment crashes to be bypassed by components that adapt dynamically to the new situation. This project aims to integrate different wireless communications technologies into a common easy-to-use infrastructure and to develop a platform that is compatible with international standards. [ref 982469]

Another ongoing project, entitled **“Monitoring Crustal Deformation in West-Central Bulgaria and Northern Greece”** has fostered cooperation among investigators from Greece and Bulgaria since June 2006. The aim is to install a permanent network of GPS-receiver stations in west-central Bulgaria and the

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

Greek region of Macedonia, using the existing telecom infrastructure of the seismological networks in Greece, as well as Internet service providers in Bulgaria.



(photo: courtesy of project co-directors)

“HemusNET”, a network of GPS-receiver stations, was installed in west-central Bulgaria and northern Greece to monitor deformation of the Earth’s crust

High-precision GPS data acquired from earthquakes of tectonic plate motion and crustal deformation and meteorological data will be acquired. This information will be combined with seismological data from Bulgarian and other stations in order to identify active faults and to measure deformation rates. Contacts have been initiated with state and local end-users of geodetic data. [ref 981881]

Since November 2005, scientists from Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* have cooperated in a project to establish a network for **“Monitoring and Improving the Rivers in the Vardar/Axios Watershed”**. The project involves measuring the quality of surface and groundwater, upgrading the facilities at a central laboratory, designing a remote data-processing system and the calibrating the existing Vardar/Axios water

quality model. In addition, the web-based Watershed Academy will be launched in Thessaloniki. As a result, cooperation between Aristotle University of

Thessaloniki and the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje has increased, and the project findings will be transferred to the Ministries of Environment in both countries, the Hydrometeorological Service in Skopje, and the mayors of the local municipalities. [ref 981877]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as pilot study on **“Risk Assessment of Chernobyl Accident Consequences: Lessons Learned**

for the Future”. Although the Chernobyl accident had triggered a considerable improvement in procedures for nuclear emergency preparedness and international information exchange, Greek experts and the other project participants recognised that there was still room for improvement, for example in coordinating the response to nuclear accidents and in decision-making during the initial and later phases after an accident. The pilot study gathered experts for a number of meetings focused on the lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident and formulated recommendations for future research and response measures. [ref 982283]

The SPS programme has also engaged a number of Greek consultants to lend their expertise in various fields—including earthquake security and new protective materials—to technical advice and monitoring of projects.

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