



MONTENEGRO

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Montenegro has been involved in NATO science activities since 2006 when it became a NATO Partner country. In total, scientists and experts from Montenegro have had leading roles in 4 activities, and more have joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.

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.

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



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Examples of Activities

Beginning in 2009, research groups from Montenegro and Slovenia have collaborated on **“Plasma Sterilization and De-contamination of Water”**. The goal is to develop a technique to prevent intentional contamination of drinking water. The Montenegrin team is an established group of scientists in the region, in the field of microbiology. Their collaboration with their Slovenian colleagues will result in increased knowledge of advanced technologies for decontamination with plasma and basic material-radical interactions. The scientists will also examine the effects on

living components such as bacteria and viruses in the water after treatment.
[ref 983580]

Montenegrin scientists took a lead role in organising a technical workshop to address the role of **“Geographical Information Processing & Visual Analytics for Environmental Security”**, in cooperation with Italian scientists. The workshop took place in Trento, Italy, on 13-17 October 2008. Scientists of varying expertise, from NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries, gathered to discuss the way forward with regard to the access, distribution and



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processing of Geographic Information (GI), used to support strategic environmental decision making. The participants advocated the importance of harmonised IT infrastructures designed to better monitor and manage the environment.[ref 983209]

Montenegrin and Turkish scientists are leading a project

“Harmonization of Seismic Hazard Maps in the Western Balkans”, involving participants from all other Balkan Partner countries—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*—as well as Albania and Croatia. The project will ensure the harmonization of data in one of the most seismically active regions on earth and enable seismic maps and monitoring systems to be upgraded to meet European standards. Experts from Slovenia provide training, and experts

from Greece are active in the information sharing. The harmonized map will be a decision tool for urban planning, disaster response and new building codes. This project is conducted in coordination with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) of the Stability Pact. In July 2008, the six Balkan institutions involved signed a Protocol on



Damage caused by the 1979 earthquake of 7.0 magnitude in Montenegro (photo courtesy of Branislav Glavatovic)

Multilateral Cooperation in Seismic Data Exchange with the aim of improving existing cooperative, professional and scientific relationships in the region.

[ref 983054]

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