



# The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

SPS e-flier – E.Maduike / S.Michaelis

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## NORWAY

### Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Since NATO began offering science cooperation to partners in 1992, Norwegian scientists and experts have had leading roles in 150 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.



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

### Examples of Activities

A workshop on **“The Role of Law, Ethics and Justice in Security Practices”** that took place in Oslo in March 2008 was organised by the Norwegian International Peace Research Institute as one of a series that NATO SPS organised together with the European Science Foundation under the joint “Security: Advancing a Framework for Enquiry” (SAFE) Initiative. NATO and Partner country experts from institutes dealing with intercultural communication, criminology and sociology of law and other related topics were invited as key speakers to discuss the legal and ethical consequences of the globally changing processes of external security (such as defence and international order) and internal security (such as criminal investigation and policing).<sup>[ref 983444]</sup>

Since May 2007, investigators from Norway and Croatia have cooperated in a project to measure **“Hazardous Chemical Contamination in the Sava River Basin”**. This river represents the natural north-west boundary of the Balkan Peninsula, flowing through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and connecting the capitol cities of Ljubljana, Zagreb and Belgrade. The key environmental problem is the discharge of contaminated, untreated effluents from municipalities and industrial facilities that lie along the watershed. This trans-boundary contamination raises serious environmental concerns and security risks, especially as the river is the source of more than 80% of total available water in the area. The project will apply state-of-the-art

techniques to identify the most hazardous pollutants in collected samples. The results of the analyses will be made available to the relevant local authorities. [ref 982590]

Another ongoing project has brought together scientists from Norway, Belarus and Ukraine to cooperate on the assessment of the hazards posed by “**Radioactive Contamination in the Polessie State Radiation-Ecological Reserve**” in Belarus. The initial work has involved the analysis of archival material on contamination levels and field measurements. Another major task will be to develop uniform methods for sampling and measurement of a number of isotopes in soil and water, and the level of contamination within the Chernobyl exclusion zone and the Khoyniki District of the Reserve will be measured. In the coming months, the project teams will use data from recently collected soil samples to study the migration and transport of the contamination through the atmosphere and water. The Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Environment Safety and Natural Resources of Belarus will be the major end-users of the results. [ref 983057]

In addition to NATO-funded activities, the SPS Programme facilitates the development of nationally funded activities, such as the series of workshops on “**Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in the Military Sector**”. Following an earlier pilot study on the same topic, it was recognised among participating countries that an EMS is a useful tool to manage the impact of military activities on the environment—not only for protecting the environment today, but also for cleaning up after past activities and for creating an environmentally sound future. Through this

activity, Norwegian experts connected with their counterparts in NATO and Partner countries to discuss the practical challenges of implementing EMS in the management framework. Improved environmental practices are expected to foster sustainability, thereby promoting broader peace and security objectives. The final workshop was held in Kyiv Ukraine in November 2008. [ref 982701]



(photo courtesy of the Netherlands Ministry of Defence)

Military personnel controlling an environmental water cleaning installation.

The SPS Programme has also engaged a number of consultants from Norway to lend their expertise in various fields – such as hydrogeology and decontamination of military sites – to technical advice and monitoring of projects.