

SERBIA

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Serbia has been involved in NATO science activities since 2007. In total, scientists and experts from Serbia have had leading roles in 20 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



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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.

Examples of Activities

On 28 to 30 June 2010 an Advanced Research Workshop entitled “**Managing Global Environmental Threats to Air, Water and Soil - Examples from South Eastern Europe**” will be led by a Serbian expert in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana. Bringing together over 30 participants from NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries, this workshop aims to contribute towards a comprehensive understanding of the environmental challenges in South Eastern Europe. Featuring key speakers from the University of Belgrade, this event will emphasize the need to harmonize the legal landscape of the European Union as

a means to addressing these threats. A key objective of this SPS event will be the establishment of a network of researchers and experts tasked with addressing the environmental security challenges in South East Europe and even the world at large. [ref 983909]

A workshop, led by Serbian and French experts, examined “**Security and Reliability of Damaged Structures and Defective Materials**”. The workshop addressed the risk of disasters caused by defects in materials and the resulting failure of structures, such as buildings and bridges. Specifically, the problem of

cracks in materials at the macro and micro levels was identified as an area in need of further research and analysis. Participants at the workshop gathered to exchange ideas and experiences with the ultimate goal of increased understanding of the means for greater security of structures. [ref 983354]

A project aimed at “**Harmonization of Seismic Hazard Maps in the Western Balkans**” involves experts from all Balkan Partner countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*), as well as Albania, Croatia



Miss Ljiljana Vučić, mathematician and seismologist, employee of the Montenegro Seismological Observatory at Podgorica, controls the process of seismic data on-line acquisition by three seismic networks: national, regional and worldwide. She also controls the automatic process of seismic data processing, earthquake parameters determination and data dissemination to a variety of collaboration institutions in the country, region and worldwide. The seismic activity at the Observatory is continuously monitored using digital and analogue seismic data recording of soil oscillations at a great number of the field sites of the seismic network, by two computer servers, running on Linux and Windows environment a variety of softwares for real-time seismic data acquisition, processing and dissemination.

and Turkey. 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 Multilateral Cooperation in Seismic Data Exchange with the aim of improving existing cooperative, professional and scientific relationships in the region. [ref 983054]

SPS networking infrastructure projects provide Internet connectivity and information technology to academic institutions in NATO's Partner countries. A recently completed project led by Serbian and Greek experts was focused on the “**Reconstruction of the Serbian Central Node**”. The aim of the project was to assist the Serbian scientific community to more closely integrate with other scientists in the region and the rest of Europe. Specifically, it provided the

hardware for internet connectivity through dark fibre-based, high-speed data transmission to academic institutions belonging to AMRES, the Serbian national research and education network. This enables students and researchers to take advantage of functions such as e-learning, video-conferencing, real-time and multimedia applications. [ref 983340]

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