



NATO PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMMES

CO-SPONSORSHIP GRANTS FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROJECTS

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL STAFF, NATO HEADQUARTERS

Blvd. Leopold III, B-1110 Brussels, Belgium

NATO PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION CO-SPONSORSHIP GRANTS 2022

CONTENT GUIDELINES

Version 8 December 2021

As the Alliance prepares for the future, Allies will endorse a new strategic concept at the Madrid Summit in June 2022. The document will set out how NATO will deal with a more unpredictable and competitive world.

Five elements that should be at the heart of the next Strategic Concept are:

- protecting our values,
- reinforcing our military power,
- strengthening our societies,
- taking a global outlook, and
- building NATO as the institutional link between Europe and North America.

In addition, the following thematic clusters and focus topics below should help applicants in designing their projects.

Thematic Clusters

NATO PROTECTS

NATO's greatest responsibility is to protect and defend its territory and populations from attack. Projects under this thematic cluster should encompass all activities that contribute to enhancing NATO's deterrence and defence posture.

NATO UNITES

All of NATO's activities must be underpinned by unity. Projects under this cluster should focus on the shared commitment to the Washington Treaty, the importance of the transatlantic bond, fairer burden sharing and the promotion of Alliance values. They should consider how NATO brings Allies together to confront challenges to the rules-based international order in defence of the common values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

NATO STRENGTHENS

NATO takes a global approach, working on a daily basis to strengthen its members and partner countries. Through projects and activities across the globe, the Alliance seeks to empower Allies, partners, organisations and individuals to advance peace and security. The "One Partner, One Plan" approach, for example, is aimed at improving the tailored assistance made available to NATO partners by encompassing all existing political and practical programmes of cooperation within one single framework which will enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of NATO's support made available to partners for the interest of partners and the Alliance.

Possible Focus Topics¹

The New Strategic Concept: See above.

Building Resilience: The Alliance continues to strengthen its individual and collective capacity to resist all forms of attack in line with Article 3 of the Washington Treaty. As seen during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, hostile information and disinformation activities target the core values of the Alliance with the objective of undermining the resilience of Allied citizens. Closer cooperation between NATO and multilateral institutions, notably the EU, is crucial in responding to this common challenge.

Defence and Deterrence: Collective defence remains the Alliance's greatest responsibility and deterrence is a core element of NATO's overall strategy – preventing conflict and war, protecting Allies, maintaining freedom of decision and action, and upholding the principles and values it stands for (individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law). NATO's capacity to deter and defend is supported by an appropriate mix of nuclear, conventional, and missile defence capabilities, which complement each other, and is underpinned by an array of civil and military resources to support these capabilities and the posture more broadly.

Russia: Russia's actions continue to make the Euro-Atlantic security environment less stable and less predictable, including through increasing the military deployments on the border with NATO Allies and partners, sustained and coordinated hostile information activities and disinformation campaigns. Alliance political unity, combined with NATO's robust military capability and will to protect its citizens and territory, helps avoid misunderstandings and miscalculations, build future trust, and keep open channels for dialogue to contribute to transparency and risk reduction.

The South: Instability in NATO's southern neighbourhood continues to challenge Alliance security and the security of NATO's partners. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations targeted at partners and at NATO's home populations weakens international stability and prosperity, and risks undermining the resolve and confidence of its citizens.

Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control: In an uncertain world, nuclear weapons contribute to preserving peace, prevent coercion and deter aggression. NATO remains committed to effective arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

¹ The list is not exhaustive and other relevant topics that fall under the main thematic clusters are eligible for sponsorship.

[China](#): While NATO does not regard China as an adversary, the rise of China is fundamentally shifting the global balance of power, with security consequences for NATO. NATO will remain a regional Alliance, but to address a changing global security environment and to defend the global rules and institutions that have kept Allies safe for decades, NATO needs a more global approach.

[Innovation and adaptation](#): NATO is implementing an energetic programme of innovation with academia and the private sector. NATO is at the forefront of innovation across our Alliance in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, autonomous technologies, quantum and bio-technologies to name but a few. Space is a dynamic and rapidly evolving area, which is essential to the Alliance's deterrence and defence. In 2019, Allies adopted NATO's Space Policy and recognised space as a new operational domain, alongside air, land, sea and cyberspace.

[NATO's response to COVID-19](#): NATO Allies stand in solidarity in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. NATO and Allied military personnel have been supporting civilian efforts - providing military airlift, setting up field hospitals, sharing medical expertise, and helping to develop innovative responses. While NATO continues to take all the necessary measures to protect our armed forces, NATO's operational readiness remains undiminished and the Alliance continues to deliver effective deterrence and defence. Our forces remain vigilant and prepared to respond to any threat.