

MOLDOVA

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme

Moldova has been involved in NATO science activities since 1994. In total, scientists and experts from Moldova have had leading roles in 65 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

On 7 to 17 June 2010 an Advanced Study Institute, entitled “**Technological Innovations in Detection and Sensing of CBRN Agents and Ecological Terrorism**” will take place in Chisinau, Moldova. The objective of this SPS event is to initiate discussions on the latest developments and advanced technical innovations for defence against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and ecological terrorism. Experts will disseminate information on the latest techniques with the aim of fostering partnership and information sharing. This Institute is being used as a first step in the development of an international forum, which will stimulate future interactions and collaborations in this technologically relevant and significantly important field of study for mechanisms used to combat Weapons of Mass Destruction and ecological global terrorism. The human dynamics and socio-economic issues contributing to

terrorism will also be examined. The platform is designed to train young participants and entrepreneurs. [ref 983720]

An Advanced Training Course, entitled “**Training Moldovan Politicians in Security Policy**” took place in Chisinau, Moldova on 7 to 11 December 2009. The goal of the one week seminar was to provide a theoretical and practical introduction to security policies to Moldovan politicians who came from a wide range of institutions. To meet these goals, the International Centre for Democratic Transition brought together an international team of experts who were not only giving formal presentations, but were also available for further discussion after the sessions at the various social events. During the event the 45 participants from NATO and Partner countries discussed key concepts such as threat, security and the challenge of failed states. They were introduced to various

models of national security planning in NATO member states as well as the special role of elements of the civil society (NGOs).

[ref 983568]

Scientists from Moldova and Turkey are sharing their experience and collaborating to apply the latest research methodology to “**Landslide Susceptibility Assessment in Central Moldova**”. As part of this recently awarded project, the teams will gather historical and new data on landslides and catalogue them according to their origin, dynamics and economic impacts. A determination of causal factors and warning signs will be made and verified in the field, taking into consideration the geological, topographical, geomorphological and hydrogeological conditions. Landslide susceptibility maps, along with hazard maps and accompanying recommendations, will be provided to the relevant ministries, government agencies, institutes and local administrations, in order to assist in response measures. [ref 983287]

Partners from Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey are cooperating on the “**Harmonisation of Seismic Hazard Risk Reduction in the Vrancea Zone**”. They have studied all of the strong earthquakes that have occurred in the Vrancea district, as well as Chisinau, Moldova, and Russe, Bulgaria. A GIS-based map of the seismic zones in Chisinau now covers the entire city, and seismic stations have been installed in Bulgaria and Moldova. In the coming months, particularly vulnerable buildings and sites where future building may be contraindicated will be identified. Results will be disseminated as GIS maps and associated data to the end users of this project, including the Department of Emergency Situations and the Agency for Territorial Development in Chisinau, the municipality of Chisinau and other relevant officials. [ref 980468]

As part of the project “**Clean-up of Chemicals in Moldova**”, local experts and their collaborators from Belgium have addressed the threat of obsolete pesticides and other chemicals scattered throughout Moldova, either in storage or buried in the ground. These stockpiles and dumps of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) posed high health and environmental risks. SPS supported the establishment of a laboratory with the necessary equipment and training to analyse the pesticides, catalogue the dump



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Project co-director Maj. Mariana Grama and a student at the Moldovan State University use a new furnace purchased through SPS funding for the analysis of pesticide samples.

sites and set standardized sampling procedures. The laboratory was also equipped to test agricultural products for contamination, and in 2007, Russia and Belarus recommenced importation of Moldovan wine, after samples were certified to be pesticide-free. Meanwhile, a collaborative effort by NGOs, NATO agencies and the OSCE resulted in the repackaging and safe storage of 3,245 tonnes of the chemicals. The French company TREDI incinerated about 1,150 tonnes, using data from the SPS-funded laboratory to optimize the process. [ref 981186]