



# The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

SPS e-flier – N.Casey / S.Michaelis

September 2009

## 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 around 70 activities, and more have joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.



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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.

### Examples of Activities

An advanced networking workshop on **“Cyberterrorism: Prevention and Protection”** took place from 21-23 May 2009 in Chisinau. The workshop gathered research teams from CIS countries (particularly Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine), along with international experts, in order to examine ways of developing national awareness and prevention programmes to inform governments, academic institutes, businesses and private users of cyber security risks. The participants had the additional aim to help organisations and individuals protect key resources, critical infrastructure and sensitive information, as well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and

related advanced technologies.

Meanwhile, ongoing networking projects in Moldova include the creation of **Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)** to respond to events such as cyber-terrorism attacks. These teams are equipped with hardware such as servers and workstations and are trained to recognise, analyse and respond rapidly to incidents, in order to limit damage and minimize recovery costs. The creation of CERTs has contributed to expertise and capacity-building and has increased the robustness of academic networks in Moldova against cyber attacks.



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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.

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.

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 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.



(photo: SMic/NATO)

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.