NATO SCIENCE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024-1

The NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme promotes dialogue and practical cooperation between NATO member states and Partner countries based on scientific research, technological innovation and knowledge exchange. It enables scientists, experts and officials from NATO and Partner nations to work together to address emerging security challenges and their impact, by supporting activities in the form of four established grant mechanisms, which are:

1. Multi-Year research and development Projects (MYP)
2. Events, in the following formats:
    a. Advanced Research Workshops (ARW)
    b. Advanced Training Courses (ATC)
    c. Advanced Study Institutes (ASI)

Through the SPS Programme, NATO has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to science, innovation and practical cooperation with Partners. The SPS Programme offers funding, expert advice and support to tailor-made, civil security-relevant activities that respond to NATO's strategic objectives. Participation in the SPS Programme enables experts and scientists to develop innovative solutions to today's security challenges, and to build partnerships with their peers in NATO and Partner nations.

For more information on the SPS Programme and its activities, please visit the NATO SPS website at www.nato.int/science.

BOUNDARIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This call for proposals welcomes applications responding to any of the SPS Programme's Key Priorities outlined in the Annex.

This call for proposals welcomes applications for Multi-Year Projects and Events (Advanced Research Workshops, Advanced Training Courses and Advanced Study Institutes).

Proposals for Multi-Year Projects should research and develop innovative solutions and demonstrators. They should also demonstrate a solid and long-term approach, indicating clearly the expected maturity (Technology Readiness Level) to be reached, and how additional actors (e.g. industrial partners, programmes, national funding, end users, etc.) will be involved in further developing and exploiting the results of the SPS-supported activity after its conclusion. Proposals should also include plans for the demonstration of the achieved results (prototypes, simulators, demonstrators, etc.) to key stakeholders. Proposed activities that rely on data should outline a data exploitation plan for the collection of existing data or for the creation of new datasets.

ELIGIBILITY

Only applications meeting all of the following criteria will be taken into consideration.

General eligibility criteria
Applications submitted to the SPS Programme must:

1. Contribute toward NATO's strategic objectives and have a clear link to security;
2. Address at least one of the SPS Key Priorities;
3. Be developed jointly by scientists or experts from at least one NATO and one eligible Partner nation.
   - All participants in the proposed activity must be nationals of a NATO member country or a NATO Partner country;
   - Each activity must include a scientist or expert taking on the role of NATO country Project Director (NPD). This person must be resident and employed in a NATO member country;
   - Each activity must include a scientist or expert taking on the role of Partner country Project Director (PPD). This person must be resident and employed in an eligible Partner nation (see list below);
   - Additional co-directors from either NATO or eligible NATO Partner nations may be included in proposals for Multi-Year Projects.
4. Be developed and implemented by co-directors employed by government, academic, or other non-profit institutions. For-profit private companies are not eligible for SPS funding;
5. Include realistic plans and budgets;
6. Be developed and managed in alignment with rules and regulations outlined in the SPS handbooks available on the SPS website at the following link: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/88007.htm.

Individual applicants should note that they may not hold more than one SPS grant at a time. Prospective co-directors should ensure that any other SPS activity directed by either of them is formally closed before applying.

Eligible countries
Individuals from the following countries are eligible to participate in activities supported by the SPS Programme:

NATO member countries: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, the Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Eligible NATO Partner nations: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Malta, Mauritania, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Serbia, Sweden (the Invitee), Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan.

The NATO SPS Programme is committed to diversity and inclusion, and welcomes eligible applicants from all NATO and eligible Partner countries, independent of gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, religion or belief, cultural background, sexual orientation, and disability.

HOW TO APPLY

Proposals must be submitted via the SPS grant platform (https://natosps.grantplatform.com). Applications submitted in any other format will not be taken into consideration.

Interested applicants must:

1. Register an account on the SPS grant platform.
2. Find the grant mechanism for which they want to apply.
3. Click on "Start application" to access the application form.

All documents required to submit a complete application are accessible via the application form on the SPS grant platform. They are also available for download on the SPS website under the heading "Managing SPS grants".

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 21 January 2024 (23:59 CET)

Applications must be submitted before the deadline stated above. Data pertaining to incomplete applications will be lost after the deadline.

All relevant enquiries prior to application submission should be addressed to sps.info@hq.nato.int.

The SPS Programme will inform all applicants about the result of the evaluation of their proposal in due course, regardless of the outcome.

ANNEX

SPS KEY PRIORITIES

All activities funded by the SPS Programme must address at least one of the SPS Key Priorities. The current SPS key priorities are:

1. **Facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including international efforts to meet emerging security challenges**
   a. **Counter-Terrorism**
      i. Methods for the protection of critical infrastructure, supplies and personnel;
      ii. Human factors in the defence against terrorism;
      iii. Detection technologies against the terrorist threat of explosive devices and other illicit activities;
      iv. Risk management, best practices and technologies in response to terrorism.
   b. **Energy Security**
      i. Innovative energy solutions for the military; battlefield energy solutions; renewable energy solutions with military applications;
      ii. Energy infrastructure security;
      iii. Maritime aspects of energy security;
      iv. Technological aspects of energy security.
   c. **Cyber Defence**
      i. Critical infrastructure protection, including sharing of best practices, capacity building and policies;
      ii. Support in developing cyber defence capabilities, including new technologies and support to the construction of information technology infrastructure;
      iii. Cyber defence situation awareness.
   d. **Defence against Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Agents**
      i. Methods and technology to protect against, diagnose effects of, detect, decontaminate, destruct, dispose and contain CBRN agents;
      ii. Risk management and recovery strategies and technologies;
      iii. Medical countermeasures against CBRN agents.
   e. **Environmental Security**
      i. Security issues arising from key environmental and resource constraints, including health risks, climate change, water scarcity and increasing energy needs, which have the potential to significantly affect NATO's planning and operations;
      ii. Disaster forecasting and prevention of natural catastrophes;
      iii. Defence-related environmental issues.

2. **Enhance support for NATO-led operations and missions**
      i. Provision of civilian support through SPS Key Priorities;
      ii. Provision of access to information through internet connectivity as in the SILK-Afghanistan Programme;
      iii. Cultural and social aspects in military operations and missions;
      iv. Enhancing cooperation with other international actors.

3. **Enhance awareness of security developments including through early warning, with a view to preventing crises**
    a. **Security-related Advanced Technology**
        i. Emerging technologies including nanotechnology, optical technology, micro satellites, metallurgy and the development of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) platforms.
    b. **Border and Port Security**
        i. Border and port security technology;
        ii. Cross-border communication systems and data fusion;
        iii. Expert advice and assessments of border security needs and best practices.
    c. **Mine and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Detection and Clearance**
        i. Development and provision of advanced technologies, methodologies and best practices;
        ii. Solutions to counter improvised explosive devices (IED).
    d. **Human and Social Aspects of Security related to NATO's Strategic Objectives**

4. **Any project clearly linked to a threat to security not otherwise defined in these priorities**
    Such proposals will be examined for links to NATO's Strategic Objectives (e.g. in the field of hybrid challenges).