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The NATO Science for Peace
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Report of the “Advanced Research Workshop on Explosives Detection” 17th-18th October 2018 Florence, Italy

The Science for Peace and Security (“SPS”) Programme continues to enhance its public diplomacy efforts through promoting activities aimed to raise its visibility. Accordingly, SPS supported the organization of an international workshop, entitled the "Advanced Research Workshop on Explosives Detection" which occurred on the 17th and 18th of October 2018. The University of Florence School of Engineering hosted the workshop, with the support of the research group coordinated by Dr. Lorenzo Capineri. Through the workshop, objectives were established for the SPS projects in order to promote advancement of scientific and technical approaches in the field of explosives detection. The final round table discussion assessed the key ambitions of the presented projects and outlined the future direction of the SPS program, specifically in contributing to explosives detection.

The workshop involved 50 participants from 16 nations (ten NATO member countries and six NATO partner countries), for a total of 18 project presentations and four technology demonstration sessions.

The opening address given by Robert Weaver, Deputy Assistant General for the NATO Emerging Security Challenges Division; the overview of SPS Programme and Explosive Detection was given by Eyüp Kuntay Turmuş, the NATO SPS Advisor and Programme Manager. Dr. Luigi Dei, Rector of the University of Florence, underlined the importance of scientific collaboration on an international level with his speech to the workshop attendees. Dr. Lorenzo Capineri of the University of Florence was the moderator of the oral presentations. Technology demonstrations were conducted at the University of Florence School of Engineering gardens (a link for videos and pictures is available on the website).



Above: A look into the oral sessions, showing from left to right: Dr. Luigi Dei (Rector of the University of Florence), Dr. Lorenzo Capineri (Professor at the University of Florence), Dr. Eyüp Kuntay Turmuş (SPS Advisor and Programme Manager), and Robert Weaver (Deputy Assistant General for Emerging Security Challenges).



Above: Participants of the international workshop. NATO Representatives present in the image above: Deputy Robert Weaver and Dr. Eyüp Kuntay Turmuş.



Above: An example of a technology demonstration session. Dr. Gennadiy Pochanin (left) presents the robot demo of the Holographic and Impulse Subsurface Radar for Landmine and IED Detection to the workshop participants.

NATO website reference: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_160271.htm