



*The 18<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference*  
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## **NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS**

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***Abstract:***

The NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) is the long-term investment programme supported by funding from all NATO Nations. Based on the requirements identified by the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP), NSIP delivers common funded capabilities required to fulfil the Alliance's Level of Ambition. The NSIP objectives are to enhance peace, security, and stability, through reinforcement and maintenance of a solid transatlantic link demonstrating a strong affirmation of NATO solidarity and to continue the successful practice of sharing roles, risks, responsibilities, costs, and benefits that bind the Alliance together.

In making the commitment to fund common investments for the Alliance, the Allies have agreed several essential principles that must be applied before any expenditure can be authorized. The most important principle is that of "Over and Above" which refers to the provision of a capability required by the Alliance that is "over" what is currently available within the Nations' inventories and "above" what would be considered reasonable for any single Ally to deliver. Moreover, the range of facilities eligible for common funding has generally been limited to NATO Command Structure Static Facilities, Permanent Installations, Deployable Assets, Communication and Information Systems and Crisis Response facilities. The Nations have also agreed that only Minimum Military Requirement (MMR) to fulfil any particular capability is eligible for common funding. Therefore, MMR is defined as "the most austere facility required to fulfilling a NATO military need identified by the NATO military authorities".

*Key words: Organization, infrastructure, solidarity, cohesion, effectiveness, objectives.*

### **1. Introduction**

The **NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP)** is the long-term investment programme supported by funding from all NATO Nations. In making the commitment to fund common investments for the Alliance, the Allies have agreed several essential principles that must be applied before any expenditure can be authorized. The most important principle is that of "Over and Above" which refers to the provision of a capability required by the Alliance that is "over" what is currently available within the Nations' inventories and "above" what would be considered reasonable for any single Ally to deliver. Moreover, the range of facilities eligible for common funding has generally been limited to NATO Command Structure Static Facilities, Permanent Installations, Deployable Assets, Communication and Information Systems and Crisis Response facilities. The Nations have also agreed that only Minimum Military Requirement (MMR) to fulfil any particular capability is eligible for common funding. Therefore, MMR is defined as "the most austere facility required to fulfilling a NATO military need identified by the NATO military authorities".

#### **1. What is it NATO**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political and military alliance formed in 1949, which currently consists of 30 countries from Europe and North America, and of whose main objectives is to protect the populations and territories of its member states through collective system



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of defence and guaranteeing the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

**Political dimension** - NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defense and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.

**Military dimension** - NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under the collective defense clause of NATO's founding treaty - Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations.

A “NATO decision” is the expression of the collective will of all 30 member countries since all decisions are taken by consensus.

The Brussels Summit in 2018 reaffirmed the Alliance’s commitment to reinvigorate NATO’s culture of readiness and agreed to launch a NATO Readiness Initiative. The purpose is to ensure that more high quality, combat-capable national forces at high readiness can be made available to NATO. From within the overall pool of forces, Allies will offer an additional 30 major naval combatants, 30 heavy or medium maneuver battalions, and 30 kinetic air squadrons, with enabling forces, at 30 days’ readiness or less. They will be organized and trained as elements of larger combat formations, in support of NATO’s overall deterrence and defence posture. The NATO Readiness Initiative will further enhance the Alliance’s rapid response capability, either for reinforcement of Allies in support of deterrence or collective defence, including for high-intensity warfighting, or for rapid military crisis intervention, if required.

NATO Heads of States and Governments have acknowledged that the North Atlantic Alliance is at a defining moment for the security of our nations and populations and that the Alliance was ready to respond swiftly and firmly to the new security challenges. Russia’s aggressive actions have fundamentally challenged our vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

At the 2014 Wales Summit, NATO approved the Readiness Action Plan (RAP), which included measures that address both the continuing need for assurance and adaptation of the Alliance’s military strategic posture. Allied leaders adopted a package of measures – the RAP – designed to make NATO forces 3 more responsive, better trained, and better equipped to respond to the changed and broader security environment in, or near, Europe, so that the Alliance can meet challenges from wherever they may arise. At the 2016 Warsaw Summit, NATO welcomed the RAP’s implementation and agreed to further measures to enhance forward presence along the Alliance’s periphery. NATO will continue to respond to the concerns of its members by initiating readiness measures in keeping with the Alliance’s commitment to collective defence. The Alliance continues to pursue a 360-degree approach to security and to effectively fulfil three core tasks as set out in the Strategic Concept: collective defence, crisis management, and cooperative security. NATO has made considerable progress in strengthening its’ posture and delivering on commitments made at the Wales, Warsaw, and Brussels Summits. NATO has placed renewed emphasis on deterrence and collective defence to ensure that the Alliance retains its ability to project stability and fight against terrorism. NATO faces a dangerous, unpredictable, and fluid security environment, with enduring challenges and threats from all strategic directions; from state and non-state actors; from military forces; and from terrorist, cyber, and hybrid attacks. Russia’s aggressive actions, including the threat and use of force to attain political goals, challenge the Alliance and is undermining Euro-Atlantic security and the rules-based international order. Instability and continuing crises across the Middle East and North Africa are fuelling terrorism. They also contribute to irregular migration and human trafficking. The ongoing crisis in Syria has a direct effect on the stability of the region and the



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security of the Alliance as a whole. NATO faces hybrid challenges, including disinformation campaigns and malicious cyber activities. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and advanced missile technology also continues to threaten the security of NATO nations. Despite this, the Alliance’s unity and solidarity are stronger than ever, and NATO is taking necessary steps to ensure collective defence.

## **2. NATO funding**

### **2.1 NATO funding principles**

NATO is resourced through the direct and indirect contributions of its members. NATO’s common funds are direct contributions to collective budgets, capabilities, and programmes, which equate to only 0.3% of total Allied defense spending (approximately EUR 2.5 billion per year until 2022) to develop capabilities and run the entirety of the Organization, and its military commands, capabilities and infrastructure.

NATO funding principles:

- National (or indirect) contributions are the largest and are borne by individual member countries. These include the forces and capabilities held by each member country, which can be provided to NATO for deterrence and defense activities and military operations.
- Direct contributions finance NATO’s budgets, programmes, and capabilities in support of objectives, priorities and activities that serve the interests of the Alliance as a whole – and cannot reasonably be borne by any single member – such as Alliance operations and missions or NATO-wide air defense or command and control systems.
- All 30 Allies fund NATO using an agreed cost-share formula derived from the Gross National Income of member countries. This is the principle of common funding and demonstrates burden-sharing in action.
- NATO has three principal common-funded budgets: the civil budget (funding NATO Headquarters), the military budget (funding the integrated command structure) and the NATO Security Investment Programme (funding military infrastructure and capabilities).
- Programmes and initiatives can also be jointly funded, which means that the participating countries can identify the priorities and the funding arrangements, while NATO provides political oversight.
- NATO common funding is underpinned by strong governance mechanisms, with Allies collectively deciding what is eligible for common funding and how much can be spent each year. They also collectively decide on the resource planning figures for the medium term.
- The North Atlantic Council oversees the common funding processes, which are governed by the Resource Policy and Planning Board, the Budget Committee and the Investment Committee.

### **2.2 Direct funding of NATO**

NATO has annual budgets and programmes worth around EUR 2.5 billion, which *inter alia* support its permanent military command structure, its current operations and missions, and provide essential military infrastructure (including air and naval basing facilities, satellite communications, fuel pipelines, and command and control systems). This represents 0.3% of total Allied defense spending. This direct funding comes principally in two forms: common funding and joint funding. It can also come in the form of trust funds, contributions in kind, *ad hoc* sharing arrangements and donations.



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### **2.3 The principle of common funding**

Since NATO was founded, common funding has played a strategic role in supporting the Alliance’s objectives, priorities, and core tasks. Allies pool their collective resources in order to provide and deliver key NATO programmes and capabilities.

When a certain priority or initiative has been identified, the Resource Policy and Planning Board (RPPB) assesses whether the principle of common funding applies – in other words whether the provision of a capability or conduct of an activity serves the interests of the Alliance as a whole and should therefore be resourced from common funding.

The criteria for common funding are reviewed regularly and adjusted to keep up with NATO’s evolving political-military objectives and needs, most recently at the 2021 Brussels Summit when NATO Leaders agreed to broaden and adjust the use of common funding.

Common funding arrangements apply to the NATO civil and military budgets, and the NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP). Together, these common-funded budgets reinforce the Alliance, providing major capabilities, enabling deterrence, defense, and interoperability, and supporting consultation and decision-making at the highest levels. These are the only funds where NATO authorities identify their funding needs in accordance with the Alliance’s overarching objectives and priorities. Allied common funding contributions to NATO are established using an agreed cost-sharing formula derived from the Gross National Income of NATO member countries. Where military common funding is concerned – the military budget and the NSIP – the ‘over and above’ principle guides Allies’ decisions. In essence, it focuses on the provision of requirements that would not be reasonable for an Ally to bear individually.

At the 2021 Brussels Summit, NATO Leaders agreed to increase NATO resourcing, including as necessary NATO common funding, taking into account sustainability, affordability and accountability. At the 2022 Summit in Madrid, NATO Leaders committed to a concrete financial trajectory for all three NATO budgets starting in 2023. As a result, increased national defence expenditures and NATO common funding will be commensurate with the challenges of a more contested security order. Investments in collective defence and key capabilities are essential.

### **2.4 The civil budget**

The civil budget supports Allies’ consultation and decision-making. It provides funds for personnel expenses, operating costs, and capital and programme expenditure of the International Staff at NATO Headquarters in Belgium. It is financed from national foreign ministry budgets (in most countries); its implementation is overseen by the Budget Committee. The civil budget for 2022 was EUR 289.1 million. The NATO Secretary General is the budget holder of the civil budget.

The civil budget is formulated in line with an objectives-based framework, which establishes clear links between NATO’s strategic objectives and the resources required to achieve them. There are five frontline objectives which encompass support for: crisis management and operations, collective defence, cooperative security, public relations and the consultation process amongst Allies. There are also three enabling objectives which consist of: supporting the operational environment of the NATO Headquarters’ governance; regulation through the monitoring of business policies, processes and procedures; and NATO Headquarters’ security.

### **2.5 The military budget**

The military budget supports and contributes to strengthening NATO’s deterrence and defence posture and fostering interoperability across the Alliance. It funds the operating of selected common-funded capabilities, the integrated command structure, Alliance operations and missions, and to some extent, training, and exercises. It is composed of separate sub-budgets, which are



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financed with contributions from Allies’ national defence budgets (in most countries) according to agreed cost-shares. Its implementation is overseen by the Budget Committee. The primary military budget holders are the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), and the Director General of the International Military Staff (DGIMS).

*Inter alia*, the military budget provides funds for the integrated command structure, the International Military Staff, the NATO Strategic Commands, the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control (NAEW&C) Force, and Alliance operations and missions. However, in all cases, the provision of military staff to the integrated command structure or to operations and missions remains a nationally funded responsibility. The military budget for 2022 was EUR 1.56 billion.

### **2.6 The NATO Security Investment Programme**

The NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) supports and contributes to deterrence, defence, and security. It funds major construction and command and control systems under the ‘over and above’ principle described above. It provides installations and facilities such as air defence communication and information systems, military headquarters for the integrated command structure and for deployed operations, as well as critical airfield, fuel systems and maritime infrastructure.

The NSIP is financed by the ministries of defence of each NATO member. Its implementation is overseen by the Investment Committee. Capabilities are delivered either by individual host nations or user nations, by NATO agencies or Strategic Commands. The 2022 ceiling for the NSIP was EUR 790 million.

### **2.7 Joint funding**

Joint funding arrangements are established within the terms of an agreed NATO charter. The participating countries identify the priorities and the funding arrangements, while NATO has visibility and provides political oversight. Jointly funded programmes vary in the number of participating countries, cost-share arrangements and management structures.

Joint funding is appropriate when there is a need for a long-term, subject-specific framework to implement large-scale requirements or specific initiatives. The most recent joint funding initiative is the establishment of the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA). Joint funding arrangements can lead to the set-up of a management organisation or agency within NATO.

Jointly funded activities range from the development and production of fighter aircraft or helicopters to the provision of logistics support or air defence communication and information systems. These include agencies for NATO’s Airborne Early Warning and Control capability (NAPMA), the NH90 Helicopter programme (NAHEMA) and the Eurofighter-Typhoon and Tornado fighter jet programmes (NETMA). NATO agencies also coordinate research and development activities or are active in the fields of standardization and intelligence-sharing.

### **2.8 Indirect funding of NATO**

When the North Atlantic Council – NATO’s top political decision-making body – unanimously decides to engage in an operation or mission, there is no obligation for each and every member to contribute unless it is an Article 5 collective defence operation, in which case expectations are different. In all cases, NATO (as an organisation) does not have its own armed forces, so Allies commit troops and equipment. Contributions vary in form and scale from, for instance, a few soldiers to thousands of troops, and from armoured vehicles, naval vessels, or helicopters to all forms of equipment or support, medical or other. These contributions are offered by



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individual Allies and are taken from their overall defence capability to form a combined Alliance capability, with each covering the costs associated with their deployments.

### **3. NSIP Framework**

#### **3.1. Overall NSIP Requirements**

NSIP projects meet Alliance military requirements for a wide range of facilities and capabilities. Projects include the infrastructure to support both forward deployed and reinforcing forces, mobility within and between regions, enabling logistics and transportation support, and flexible command and control systems (including secure and reliable communications).

NATO has postponed many long-term defense investment requirements, focusing instead on requirements for active operations and missions (notably Afghanistan) and its highest priority, most urgent capability requirements (notably Alliance Global Hawk unmanned reconnaissance aircraft infrastructure and coherent, interoperable, command and control systems). As NATO's role in Afghanistan ended, long-deferred infrastructure requirements, to include air-basing and bulk fuel infrastructure, are now being addressed. The funding requirement for NSIP takes into account agreements made at the Wales and Warsaw Summits, the 2017 Special Meeting in Brussels, and the 2018 Summit in Brussels, as well as military operations and missions, the changing and continuing threat to peace, maximum use of existing inventory, and national political and economic realities. This funding requirement is considered an adequate level of support to cover restoration and upgrade requirements for existing facilities and systems, payments for incrementally funded projects, minor works, new requirements, and recurring administrative and other program support costs (audits, cost overruns, and cancellation fees).

The national contribution to NSIP serves multiple political purposes in addition to meeting key military requirements for facilities and capabilities.

#### **3.2. Program Priorities and Eligibility Criteria**

Strengthening NATO's Deterrence and Defence Posture and Projecting Stability through the NATO RAP, forward presence, assurance and adaptation measures, Alliance operations and missions, improved forces and capabilities and participation in the US led coalition in fighting terrorism are NATO's highest priorities.

For the RAP, NATO will enhance infrastructure for Reception, Staging, and Onward Movement (RSOM), Prepositioning, and Force Integration and Enhanced Interoperability Training. In addition, NATO will significantly improve air and fuel infrastructure to enable freedom of movement for reinforcing forces. New requirements, including satellite and other communications, runway repairs and airfield improvements, air operations facilities, potable water distribution systems, will also be a priority. NATO common funding for such projects generally increases Alliance burden sharing for projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

The NSIP's eligibility criteria for facilities construction and restoration does not support European Allies national defense requirements but will support U.S. contingency operational infrastructure which supports NATO operational plans at European bases as it is considered over and above what is reasonable for an individual nation to provide. With few exceptions, allies will not support NSIP funding for the construction, restoration, or upgrade of facilities that are used specifically for that nation's NATO-assigned forces (this applies principally to most European Allies and has the practical effect of disqualifying their facility requirements for NATO funding). However, projects will still be funded to support operational facility requirements for those NATO-assigned forces deployed outside of their national borders.



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### **3.3. Program and Project Approval Procedures**

The NSIP procedures have been created in order to: (1) allow NATO forces to obtain the maximum operational benefit, whether stationed in Europe, reinforcing Europe, or transiting to other regions; and (2) to allow contractors to have a level playing field when bidding on project solicitations.

These procedures remain flexible and resilient, allowing NATO to respond to evolving world events (such as events related to Defeating Terrorism, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, 9/11, Russia’s war in Ukraine, and the Balkans) and the changing geo-strategic environment.

The NSIP budget decisions are based on consensus decision-making among the 30 member nations. Procedures and project execution decisions are likewise arrived at by consensus. Absent any member state agreement, NATO projects will not be approved or executed. Currently, the military planning staffs of the Allied Command, Operations (ACO), and the Allied Command, Transformation (ACT), develop all NSIP construction and procurement projects based on prioritized and accepted minimum military requirements to support the Alliance’s war-fighting capabilities. These projects are bundled in Capability Program Plans, which NATO military and civilian decisionmakers review in detail based on guidance from their national governments. In addition, ACO and ACT military staffs screen urgent operational requirements for ongoing military operations and priorities and submit them to NATO headquarters for approval using special expedited procedures.

Except for urgent military operational requirements, all NSIP project requirements are stated in terms of capabilities, assembled, reviewed, and approved by the NATO Military Authorities (NMAs). Individual projects within Capability Program Plans are stratified (prioritized) by the NMAs in accordance with their criticality to enable the Strategic Commanders to meet NATO’s military Level of Ambition and/or graduated response plans for emerging threats. Due to limited funding levels, lower priority procurement and construction requirements have been deferred. In some instances, projects for the restoration and upgrade of existing facilities are funded as “stand alone” projects but are still subject to a NATO priority analysis.

For each military operation, ACO develops the infrastructure requirements and resources that should be included in NATO’s medium term resource planning. These plans are updated annually and reflect any changes approved through the periodic mission reviews. However, NATO procedures allow for emergency submissions in order to address new priorities that arise for urgent projects to support ongoing military operations and in response to unexpected threats. All projects for ongoing military operations are considered in an expedited manner by the Investment Committee (IC) based upon the military advice of the ACO staff and agreed NSIP eligibility criteria for the operation including deployed headquarters facilities, aerial ports of disembarkation, theater medical support, engineering, fuel depots, and theater communications equipment and assets.

### **3.4. Capability Program Plans**

Capability Program Plans can be categorized in the following five areas:

- a. Deployable Capabilities. Deployable equipment and assets to support NATO military operations such as ground based sensors for air surveillance, communications and information systems, and command and control assets.
- b. Capabilities in Support of Deploying Forces. Logistics support for NATO deployments and long-term operations including ammunition and fuel depots; fuel pipelines; and facilities for the reception and staging of reinforcement forces.
- c. Training, Exercise, and Education in Support of Deployable Forces. Restoration and upgrade of facilities to support NATO interoperability training for deployable forces, and



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improvements at existing NATO joint training areas, firing ranges, and facilities for computer-assisted training.

d. Command, Control and Communications (C3). Upgrades to equipment and software for NATO core communications network and automated information systems; air command and control systems, radars, adaptation of NATO C3 and Air Command and Control (C2) systems in support of theater missile defence, and air to ground surveillance.

e. NATO Command Structure. Costs associated with the implementation of the new command structure, construction of new military headquarters buildings, and expansion of existing headquarters facilities.

### **3.5. NSIP project examples in Europe**

The NSIP remains a key source of funding for infrastructure requirements in the European theater of operations, restoring and upgrading existing NATO operational facilities, and providing new operational facilities at U.S. enduring and deployed locations. NSIP investments contribute to providing U.S. forces operational benefits, whether stationed in Europe, transiting to other regions, or forward deployed in support of NATO operations and missions.

NATO continues to approve and fund infrastructure projects benefiting several key U.S. operating locations. NATO recently agreed to fund \$200 million for an equipment storage and maintenance site in Poland as well as to reimburse the U.S. for numerous other projects funded under the European Reassurance Initiative / European Deterrence Initiative (ERI/EDI). Two significant examples of NSIP investment supporting U.S. requirements can be found at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. At Aviano, NATO funded over \$465 million for the bed down of two fighter squadrons. The projects include both operational and community support facilities, the latter being a special exception to ensure the maintenance of a permanent fighter aircraft presence in northern Italy. At Ramstein, NATO has invested over \$210 million to provide strategic air transport infrastructure to include parking aprons, freight and passenger terminal facilities, and a C-5-capable hangar.

In addition, NATO funds infrastructure required to store special weapons within secure sites and facilities. Since the year 2000, NATO has invested over \$80 million in infrastructure improvements in storage sites in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey. Another \$154 million is under implementation at these sites for security improvements to meet stringent new U.S. standards. NATO has also agreed to program another \$150 million for further improvements to improve security measures, firefighting, and infrastructure improvements, which will bring the total investment to \$384 million.

Another notable example of NATO investment can be found at Naval Station Rota, Spain, where NATO has invested \$151 million in port infrastructure upgrades to provide logistics support and resupply facilities for NATO maritime forces and \$83 million for infrastructure upgrades to support NATO's Southern European Strategic Air Transport requirements. The pier improvements enabled the U.S. to immediately berth the Aegis vessel at Rota to support our Missile Defence program.

Allies have approved new capability packages to provide infrastructure for Airborne Early Warning, Alliance Ground Surveillance, Communication Jammer, Maritime Patrol, Air-to-Air Refueling, Air Transport Aircraft, and Bulk Fuel. These significant NSIP-funded improvements should alleviate critical infrastructure shortfalls at bases used by U.S. forces in Europe. In addition, four capability packages approved by NATO support the RAP and include many U.S. ERI/EDI projects offering the U.S. the opportunity to recoup the funding from NATO for these projects. These RAP projects are under accelerated implementation where NSIP funding will provide





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infrastructure to support in-place force enablers on the territories of the Eastern Allies to include pre-positioning of equipment and supplies, the designation of specific NATO headquarters or bases, and the ability of Allies to receive and support reinforcements. The RAP, air basing, and bulk fuel infrastructure requirements will cost NATO \$300 - \$400 million per year for the next several years.

### **3.6. NSIP in Romania**

Within the NSIP framework, Romania supports the implementation of all capabilities aiming to provide key capabilities required to fulfil the Alliance’s level of ambition, including those in support of the Readiness Action Plan. Likewise, Romania is committed to implement in a timely manner those projects for which she acts as Host Nation and supports a transparent participation of all eligible enterprises in competitive biddings conducted in order to implement common funded capabilities.

For the successful implementation of NSIP projects, extensive support of the host nation is critical. In Romania, the Real Estate and Infrastructure Directorate’s (REID) main mission is to implement infrastructure projects and to assure the investment’s contracting, supervision and overall management for all infrastructure projects financed either through national or multinational funding mechanisms. The implementation of NSIP common funded projects become a key objective for REID. The first NSIP projects were implemented at Fetesti airfield, as part of Capability Package 5A0062 – Provide operational facilities in seven new nations. In 2016, REID implemented in Romania investment projects funded through NSIP, to include airfields infrastructure, fuel storage facilities, communication and information systems and military headquarters. The implementation of the NSIP projects according to NATO requirements was demanding and rewarding in the same measure, due to the fusion between the NATO minimum military requirement (MMR) and the latest technical solutions developed for feasibility, strength, and durability at reduced costs. At Fetesti airfield, the rehabilitation works of the existing infrastructure involved 250,000 m<sup>2</sup> of cement concrete pavement – 30 cm thick (for reinforcement of the runway, taxiways and platforms), and 29,000 m<sup>2</sup> cement concrete pavement – 22 cm thick for roads, in order to comply with NATO MMR. NSIP funded project include – beside airfield pavements – several infrastructure components such as maintenance hangar, squadron operation facility, arresting gear, POL installations and tanks. NSIP projects “triggered” the national funded infrastructure projects in amount over 28 million Euros which allowed us to operate the F-16s starting September 2016. During the execution of works, multiple challenges had to be worked out, from the preparation of the technical solution which fit both NATO Criteria and Standards and the national regulations, to the search of the optimal measures for improving the foundation soil and developing the concrete formula to be used based on local conditions and materials. Completion of infrastructure projects within the scope, costs and time required extensive coordination efforts for the development of national projects complementary to the authorized NSIP ones.

Another complex NSIP funded project was the implementation of the RO Navy’s BRASS (Broadcast and Ship-Shore) and SSSB (Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer) systems. NATO provides naval forces with a network of HF shore stations providing coverage for HF radio communication services around the globe.

A key enabler in the success of this network is the adherence to the standards and system specifications defined by NATO through programmes such as BRASS (Broadcast and Ship Shore). The early phases of BRASS provided high reliability HF broadcast services to naval forces, as well as providing access points for the error-free automated delivery of messages from ship to shore using the now well-known HF standard, STANAG 5066.



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The Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) is a real-time data link buffer system supporting data exchange between naval forces, including airborne assets, and their associated air defence ground environment units. The SSSB functionality includes:

- Data transmission and forwarding on a multitude of national and NATO data links including Link 1, Link 11, Link 11B and in the future Link 22.
- Generation of a real-time recognized common operational picture including air, surface and sub-surface element information-based information received from data links.

For these complex projects, a joint effort of NATO partners and Romanian infrastructure and integration teams was essential in order to achieve the expected outcome: projects BRASS (Broadcast and Ship Shore System) and SSSB (Ship Shore Ship Buffer) required that the design and implementation of infrastructure be executed by REID while the electronic portion of the project (communication and information systems) be executed by NATO NCIA. The infrastructure was designed and implemented to accommodate both communication and information technology systems in order to save NSIP funds by using a cost-effective solution and achieve synergy between BRASS and SSSB by using common infrastructure.

**3.7. NSIP legal framework in Romania**

The legal reference for NSIP projects in Romania is MoND’s order no M.36 from 17 February 2021.

The main provisions of this order are the following:

1. The Defence Staff through Logistics Directorate is responsible for the coordination of the NSIP related activities.
2. In the NSIP field, the Defence Staff maintains the communication to NATO’s entities directly or through the representation structures.
3. The Defence Staff representatives in the NATO strategic HQs (ACO and ACT) transmit to the Defence Staff the requests for capabilities development in support of NATO missions in Romania.
4. After finalizing the analysis and evaluation of the NSIP project documents, the CHOD requests approval of the projects from the MoND.
5. Investment projects financed from national funds, approved by the Technical-Economical Council of MoND, can be submitted to the attention of the NATO Investment Committee (IC), before the commitment of expenses, by means of pre-financing statements, with the possibility of reimbursement from the NSIP funds, in the event that, through those projects, military capabilities necessary to support NATO missions on Romanian territory are developed.
6. NSIP investment domains in Romania are the following:

Nr. crt.	Category
1.	Airfields
2.	Naval Bases
3.	Petroleum and Lubricants Installations
4.	Communications
5.	Information Systems
6.	Navigational Aids
7.	Anti-submarine and Surface
8.	Vessel Warning Installations



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9.	Warning Installations
10.	War Headquarters
11.	Training Installations
12.	Surface-to-Surface Missile Installations
13.	Surface-to-Air Missile Installations (SAM)
14.	Ammunition Storage
15.	Forward Storage Sites
16.	Reinforcement Support Category
17.	Miscellaneous (Various)

### **Conclusion**

Since NATO was established in 1949, the capability development was one of its main objectives. Common funded capabilities are acquired through common use of resources. NATO common resources consist of NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP), the Civil and Military budgets and the International Manpower. NSIP provides the capital investment funds to the NATO assets which support NATO Strategic Commands' operations and missions.

NSIP funded facilities and airfield improvements in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom play a key role in supporting NATO's ongoing operations and missions across the Alliance Territory. In the event of a Major or Lesser Regional Conflict, NATO airfields, ports, staging areas, bulk fuel storage and pipeline systems, and access through the Alliance, will play a pivotal role in deployment, sustainment, and redeployment of forces. With the consolidation of headquarters, airfields, and lines of communication, the NSIP is called upon to resource these current and emerging military requirements. Readiness and availability of the facilities at these and other locations is contingent on the members meeting their NSIP contribution obligations. For the successful implementation of NSIP projects, extensive support of each host nation is critical.

The contribution ceiling for NSIP is the NAC-approved upper limit on the funds to be contributed by the member nations during a calendar year.

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- [6] <https://nato.mae.ro/en/>
- [7] <https://www.defense.ro/>
- [8] <https://comptroller.defense.gov/>