

facilities required for the common defence of the NATO area, e.g. military headquarters, airfields, port and missile installations, storage sites, signals and communications installations, etc. Six-year programmes called "slice groups", are submitted by the NATO military authorities, after consultations with nations, and are reviewed by the Council or the DPC, which establish financial ceilings for the "slice groups", to be paid for on the basis of an agreed cost-sharing formula. Thereafter, annual programmes or "slices" are examined by the Infrastructure Committee, which recommends to the Council/DPC which projects can be funded. Once a "slice" has been approved, individual projects are costed and submitted to the Infrastructure Payments and Progress Committee for financial authorization. Projects are then implemented by host countries, usually on the basis of competitive bidding for contracts by firms of the participating member countries. Actual payments are made by host countries using their own funds and advance payments from other member countries.

- The Science Programme aims for the enhancement of the scientific and technical capabilities of the Alliance by fostering co-operation and information exchanges between scientists of member countries and by promoting actions to help close gaps in the scientific knowledge and research capabilities of member nations. The Science Committee fulfills this role through two types of programmes that are controlled by specially appointed panels of scientists. The first type of Programme is responsive and supports the general advancement of science within NATO. It includes a fellowship programme, research grants and a series of Advanced Study Institutes, which disseminate scientific knowledge and strengthen contacts between scientists through tutorial-style meetings. The second type of programme is more directive, and consists of Special Programme Panels which address multidisciplinary areas of concern. These panels have a limited duration and have in the past covered subjects such as catalysis, robotics and geochemical cycles.

More recently, the Science Committee's "Science for Stability" programme was initiated to help promote the development of the science and technology infrastructures of Greece, Portugal and Turkey. The programme's main objective is to bring together the government, university and private sectors who work on projects of national importance.