

## Global security in a Finnish context

In today's networked world, states are increasingly interconnected and interdependent not only in the realm of the economy, but also crisis management and security. It follows from this interdependence that in all states, including Finland, internal security and external security are inseparably interwoven. The dynamics of this changing security scene needs to be researched in depth so that we can truly understand and meet the emerging challenges. Research under this theme will support efforts to monitor, analyse and predict changes taking place in the security environment and to recognise and respond to new types of security risks. The information gained from this research will strengthen the capacity of the state to perform its core functions, such as securing the existence and operational integrity of the state and enhancing citizens' security and sense of security.

The main areas of research focus are the overall security and operational integrity of Finnish society and its ability to tolerate and respond to risks. A major focus is on national security of supply in our energy and knowledge intensive, digitalising and globalising society. Other key areas of interest include the interaction between internal and external security, citizens' experiences of insecurity at different stages of their life cycle, changing values and attitudes, and the impacts of these changes on the development of national identity, unanimity and democracy.

The security of a state, society or individual can be threatened by both external and internal factors. Finland is increasingly dependent on both other EU Member States and the international community more widely. This dependence has increased among other things as a result of deepening EU integration in various policy sectors. Cooperation has also extended to security affairs, crisis preparation and information exchange. International cooperation is an important part of internal security as well. Finland's national operating environment is tied up in many ways and at various levels with the global operating environment.

Societal security both at home and abroad is threatened by climate change and the associated extreme weather events such as floods and severe storms. These events can affect the production and distribution of energy, food and water, for instance. Pandemics can also create global security threats.

In the global security environment, the threat of conflict between the major powers has re-emerged in the wake of recent developments in Russia. Geopolitics is playing an ever greater role in shaping and steering the economy. Given the possibility of crisis, national security of supply is an issue of pivotal importance in our energy- and knowledge-intensive and increasingly networked society. System failures can quickly and severely affect the provision of basic services as well as the capabilities of security authorities. Today, there also exist completely new types of threats related to information networks, the dissemination of information and cyber security. Especially with the rapid advance of digitalisation and data networks it is important to remain at the forefront of cyber security development, which requires a constant effort to update knowledge and to find innovative solutions.

One of the factors eroding people's sense of security today is the growth of real-time communications: we hear about even the most remote security-related events and phenomena more or less instantly, often in sensationalist coverage. The message is distributed over multiple information channels in different media and online environments, allowing various actors to get their message across to often large audiences. For international extremist groups and individuals with radical ideas, social media provide an opportunity to gain peer support and to exercise influence. Various means are also applied to influence the media and thereby the audience in order to gain added impact to one's message. The distortion of information and images is



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commonplace. This kind of communication environment can exacerbate people's sense of insecurity, even when there is no real and immediate threat. Communication among individuals has also changed dramatically with new technologies, and has become more direct. This can be perceived as threatening in various ways at various stages of the life cycle.