

# **Societal security in the Nordic countries**



NordForsk



The open approach to societal security and emergency preparedness planning in our Nordic countries is unique.

– Professor Emeritus Bengt Sundelius,  
Swedish Defence University



## What is societal security?

Societal security comprises the ability of a society to sustain vital societal functions and secure its population's life, health, needs and basic values under extraordinary stresses, known as crises.

## Why do the Nordic countries cooperate in the area of societal security?

Threats to society can take many forms – from cyber attacks capable of paralysing digital infrastructure to extremists who carry out terrorist attacks to volcanic eruptions or other natural disasters.

The Nordic countries are small, open and safe societies but they are still vulnerable to external pressures.

How can the Nordic countries best protect themselves against such threats and potential risks?

This question is the key focus of the Nordic Societal Security Programme.

The research programme was established by NordForsk in 2013.



SILJE BERGUM KINSTEN/NORDEN.ORG



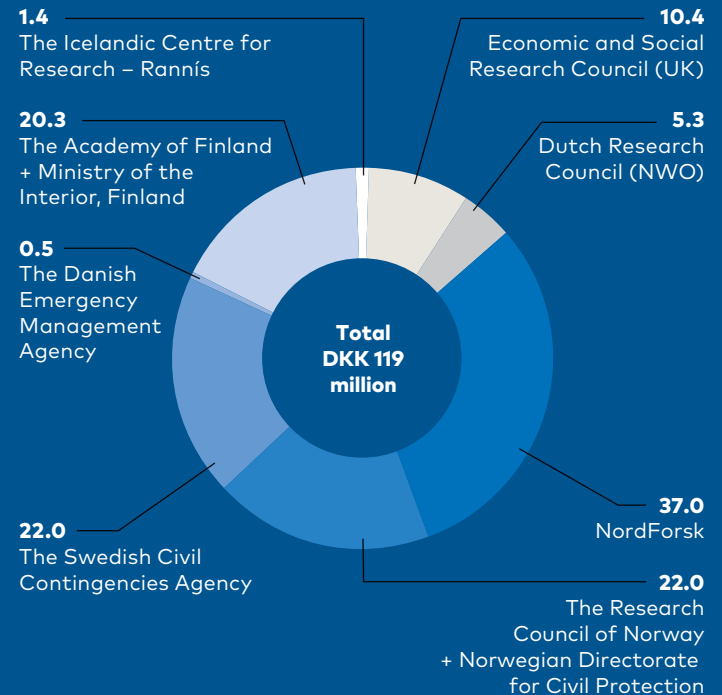
MATT HOWARD/UNSPLOASH.COM

# 9 ongoing research projects related to societal security in the Nordic region

- 1. Terrorism:** How does the fear of terrorism affect populations in the Nordic countries?
- 2. Gender equality and diversity:** Is there a connection between gender equality and diversity among security forces and societal security in the Nordic region?
- 3. Human security and a Cyber Multi-disciplinary framework:** Which cyber security demands continue to increase in the wake of digitisation?
- 4. Governance of Health Data in Cyberspace:** What are the risks associated with storing the population's health data on the internet?
- 5. Taking surveillance apart?:** Accountability and Legitimacy of Internet Surveillance and Expanded Investigatory Powers.
- 6. Extremism:** How can interdisciplinary cooperation prevent radicalisation and violent extremism?
- 7. Police Detectives on the TOR-network:** A Study on Tensions Between Privacy and Crime Fighting.
- 8. Nordic Centre of Excellence on Resilience and Societal Security:** How can we increase resilience to natural disasters?
- 9. Nordic Centre of Excellence for Security Technologies and Societal Values:** What kinds of challenges do new security technologies pose to Nordic societal values?

# Who funds this research collaboration?

Values in million DKK



Due to currency fluctuations numbers are not exact.

# Want to know more?



@NordForsk



NordForsk



NordForsk

[www.nordforsk.org/societal-security](http://www.nordforsk.org/societal-security)



NordForsk is an institution under the Nordic Council of Ministers that provides funding and facilitates Nordic cooperation on research and research infrastructure.