

FIIA

FINNISH INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ENGLISH

FIIA Activities in 2019

Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Introduction

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) is an independent research institute which produces high-level research to support political decision-making and public debate both nationally and internationally.

The Institute receives its core funding from the Finnish Parliament and sets its research agenda independently. Its fellows publish in internationally recognised publications as well as in the Institute's own publication series.

FIIA was established in its present form in 2006, having been maintained up to that point since the 1960s by a private foundation.

The Director of the Institute until 7th of October 2019 was Dr. Teija Tiilikainen. Dr. Mika Aaltola was chosen as the new director for 2020-2024. FIIA currently employs about 50 people, over half of whom are researchers.

Research

The Institute has three Research Programmes.

The European Union Research Programme focuses on the EU's global and regional role as well as the internal dynamics of the EU. The main research themes are the EU's external

relations, general political directions and institutional development.

The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia Research Programme studies the EU's eastern neighbourhood with a special focus on Russia's domestic, foreign and security policy. In particular, the programme concentrates on political developments in the region and the process of Eurasian integration. It also studies international relations in the EU's eastern neighbourhood and the relationship between the region and the EU.

The Global Security Research Programme approaches global security challenges within the framework of broad security. The programme seeks to understand the global trajectories of security that have significance for the European and Finnish security environments. The issues covered include the prospects for global governance systems, changes in the world's great-power structure, significant factors in functional and regional security and insecurity, the role of the transatlantic relationship in world politics, and the different dimensions of the European security policy. Asia and the Arctic are also on the programme's agenda.

Outreach

FIIA has a broad and active outreach programme intended for decision-makers, researchers, civil servants, NGOs, the media and the general public.

FIIA publishes Reports, Working Papers, Briefing Papers, Comments and Finnish Foreign Policy Papers. Furthermore, the FIIA Analysis series was launched in early 2014 and it became a peer-reviewed publication in 2017. All publications can be downloaded from the FIIA website. In addition to these series, FIIA publishes a quarterly journal in Finnish, *The Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs* (Ulkopolitiikka-lehti).

FIIA's events are tailored to specific target audiences and they attract both national and international speakers and participants. Events vary from closed roundtables to large public seminars.

The Institute houses a public library specialising in international relations. Its collections are at the disposal of the general public.

FIIA also maintains Eilen, the Archive and Chronology of Finnish Foreign Policy which is available at www.eilen.fi. In addition to the chronology, the archive includes speeches and key documents of Finnish foreign policy, and was opened in March 2012.

Summary of Activities

Research Focus Areas

The year 2019 was the last year of the three-year research programme period.

In 2019, research conducted by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) focused, in accordance with the focus areas of its three research programmes, on the EU's external relations, the EU's major developments, Russia's foreign policy and internal political development, and global power politics, particularly on the foreign policy and international role of the US and China. The three research programmes were brought together by the themes of relations between the great powers, European security policy, the climate and energy policy, and Arctic policy. An extensive project on Finland's foreign policy was launched in the autumn of 2019, spanning programme boundaries.

The European Union research programme focused not only on external relations, but on the EU's major developments and the EU policy of key member states. The EU's strategic role, security policy instruments and Brexit were at the core of the programme's research and expertise. The study of EU-Russian relations focused on policies of larger member states and

questions of geoeconomics. A large research report on terrorism was also completed. Research on the EU's global role was conducted together with the Global Security research programme. Nordic cooperation in foreign and security policy was also on the research agenda, supported by the Government's research funding.

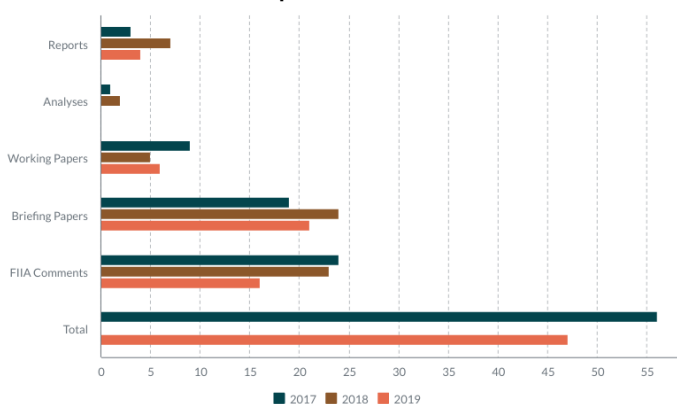
The focus of the research programme on the EU's eastern neighbourhood and Russia shifted from the previous research on Russia's foreign and defence policy and the Ukrainian crisis to research on the internal drivers behind the foreign policy. These include the special characteristics of Russia's political system, as well as the political role of civil society. The other focus areas of the programme included relations between the great powers, and the political and economic situation in the EU's eastern partnership countries. The programme conducted a large

research project on political and economic development in the former Soviet Union.

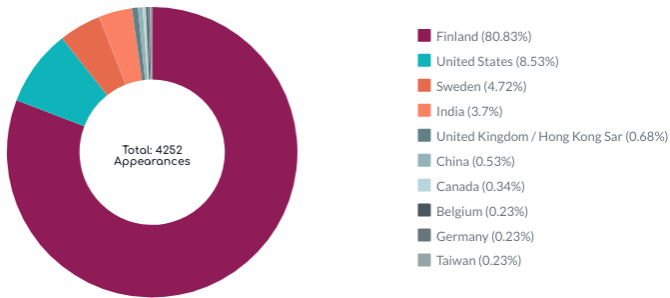
The research programme on global security focused on global power structures and changes in them. The perspectives of geoeconomics acted as a bridging element on the programme's extensive research agenda. During 2019, the programme's regional focus was on the US and Asia, and with regard to the latter, particularly on China's foreign policy and global role.

In addition, the research programme studied the vulnerability of western societies to hybrid influencing. Researchers conducted significant peer-reviewed studies on geoeconomics in particular. Furthermore, they participated in the preparation of a report on Finland's role in space security.

Number of publications in 2017–2019



Appearances in the media, top ten countries in 2019



Publications

The Institute released a total of 47 publications in 2019. Over 35,100 publication downloads/views were recorded from the website.

FIIA's researchers also published widely outside the Institute, including books and PhD theses, policy papers by other research institutes as well as academic articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals or scientific books. The Institute's researchers published a total of 13 peer-reviewed articles in 2019. Altogether, over 120 external publications were published.

The quarterly journal of the Institute, *Ulkopolitiikka* (Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs) maintained a circulation of ca. 2,000. In its 2019 issues, the Journal dealt with themes such as climate change, the EU's sanction policy and Brexit.

Media Appearances

FIIA's media visibility was on a high level throughout the year. The most

significant themes were US politics, Brexit and EU's sanction policy. Other topics in which FIIA had wide visibility included Venezuela crisis, the Ukrainian presidential election, developments in Russia and the Civil War in Syria. The visit of the Minister of External Affairs of India in a FIIA seminar was noted especially in the Indian media.

In 2019, ca 4,250 hits for the Institute were recorded in online, television, radio and print media. The vast majority of the hits resulted from interviews with FIIA researchers.

Seminar Activity

2019 was a busy year for FIIA's seminar activity with 80 organised seminars and roundtable discussions. The seminars attracted 4,317 participants altogether.

Parliamentary Hearings

FIIA researchers provided five written and/or oral statements to parliamentary committees in 2019.

FIIA Publication Series 2019

Selected FIIA Reports

[Strategic deterrence redux: Nuclear weapons and European security](#)

Leo Michel & Matti Pesu

[The changing global order and its implications for the EU](#)

Katja Creutz, Tuomas Iso-Markku, Kristi Raik & Teija Tiilikainen

[What has remained of the USSR: Exploring the erosion of the post-Soviet space](#)

Arkady Moshes & András Rác (eds.)

Selected FIIA Working Papers

[Turkey's Republican People's Party and the EU: Preconditions for EU-Turkey relations in the secular-nationalist vision](#)

Toni Alaranta

[Democratic deterrence: How to dissuade hybrid interference](#)

Mikael Wigell

[Managing transatlantic \(mis\)trust: The Trump era in perspective](#)

Matti Pesu & Ville Sinkkonen

Selected FIIA Briefing Papers

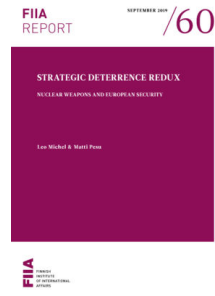
[What's next for UN climate negotiations? The UNFCCC in the era of populism and multipolar competition](#)

Antto Vihma

[The Geostrategic Arctic: Hard security in the High North](#)

Harri Mikkola

FIIA Reports



FIIA Working Papers



FIIA Briefing Papers



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[The Sinification of China: How the minorities are being merged into one nation](#)

Jyrki Kallio

[The future of EU civilian crisis management: Finding a niche](#)

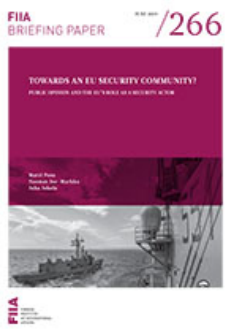
Teemu Tammikko, Jyrki Ruohomäki

[The Belarusian paradox: A country of today versus a president of the past](#)

Arkady Moshes, Ryhor Nizhnikau

[Towards an EU security community? Public opinion and the EU's role as a security actor](#)

Matti Pesu, Tuomas Iso-Markku & Juha Jokela



[Sanctions and US foreign policy in the Trump era: A perfect storm](#)

Ville Sinkkonen

[Glitches in the Kremlin's politics of Fear: The dynamics of repression in Russia between 2012 and 2019](#)

Jussi Lassila

[The new EU leadership: The von der Leyen Commission focuses on Europe's geo-economic power](#)

Niklas Helwig

FIIA Comments



[Russia and China in the Middle East: Playing their best cards](#)

Marco Siddi & Marcin Kaczmarek

Selected FIIA Comments

[China's new policy on the European Union: A toughening line on political issues](#)

Jyrki Kallio

[Negotiating Venezuela's future: First agreement, then elections](#)

Mikael Wigell & Mikko Pyhälä



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