

FIIA

FINNISH INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ENGLISH

FIIA Activities in 2020

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 is Dr. Mika Aaltola. FIIA currently employs about 56 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 and foreign policy. In particular, the programme concentrates on political developments in the region, transformations in region's key countries as well as 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

focuses on great power relations. The programme examines related challenges for the European and Finnish security environments, and implications for global governance structures and the rule-based international order. Great power relations are increasingly challenged by actual and possible domains of competition, including in the Arctic region and cyber space. At the same time, older forms of tension have re-emerged, such as territorial contestation and nuclear threats. Relations with the US remain vital, even if the transatlantic security relationship is undergoing major changes. The influence of other regional powers, such as China, Japan, India, and Brazil, has a growing impact on global governance, economy, and security.

The Global Security research programme pursues an academic and a policy-oriented research agenda. The research programme examines the norms and institutions of global governance, multinational security arrangements, hybrid threats and democratic

vulnerabilities, geostrategy and geoeconomics, as well as economic and political drivers of regional power politics including their domestic constituents.

The research programme includes the following components:

Center on US Politics and Power, Asia Research Cluster, Global Governance Cluster, and Arctic Research Cluster.

Outreach

FIIA has a broad and active outreach programme intended for decision-makers, researchers, civil servants, NGOs, the media and the general public. Anyone can subscribe to FIIA's publications and express one's interest in receiving invitations to FIIA events through the Institute's website.

FIIA publishes Reports, Working Papers, Briefing Papers, Comments and Finnish Foreign Policy Papers. 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.

Summary of Activities

Research Focus Areas

The year 2020 was the first year of the three-year research programme period.

In 2020, 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.

The European Union research programme focused not only on external relations, but on the EU's major developments shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU's strategic autonomy, foreign and security policy, and migration matters were at the core of the programme's research and expertise. Major studies on EU sanctions policy and union's external action to counter terrorism successfully utilised networking opportunities related to Finland's EU Council presidency (2019) and supported the EU and Finnish decision-making. The EU's global role relative to the great powers was a theme of the new research project focusing on EU's strategic autonomy. In addition, the programme led research activities on differentiation in EU's foreign

and security policy within a Horizon 2020 project, focused on the launch of the EU's Green Deal, and aimed to increase its expertise related to Africa.

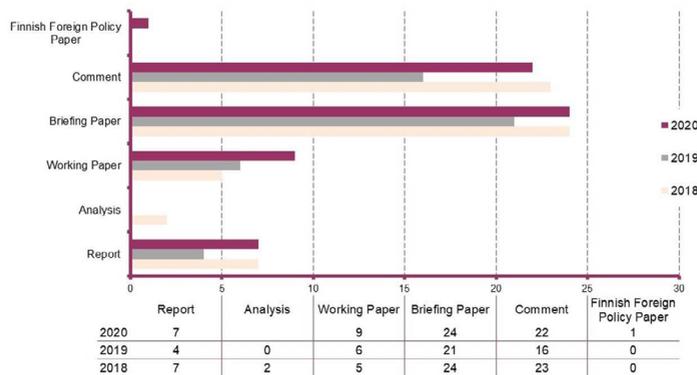
In 2020 the research programme on the EU's eastern neighbourhood and Russia further developed the studies on Russia's internal processes, important both per se and as drivers of country's foreign policy. The research focused on the on-going evolution of Russia's political system as well as the political role of civil society. As far as the EU's Eastern Partnership countries are concerned, the primary attention was given to internal and external aspects of the Belarusian revolution, whereas Ukraine was mostly approached through the prism of country's difficult reforms and trends in Ukraine's regions. Besides, the programme put Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in particular, on its research agenda.

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.

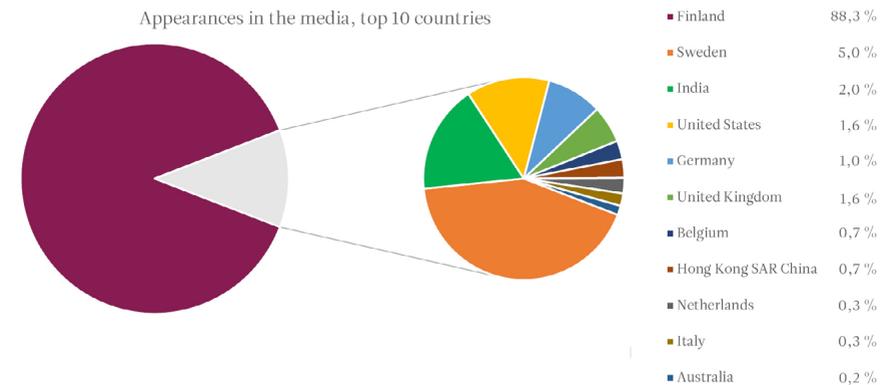
The research programme on global security focused on great power relations, especially the US-China rivalry, as well as responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an analytical framework, geoeconomics acted as a bridging element on the programme's extensive research agenda. During 2020, the programme's regional focus was on the US and Asia, particularly on China's foreign policy and global role, but also with regard to EU-India relations and Iran.

In addition, the programme conducted significant studies on climate change

Number of FIIA publications in 2018 - 2020



Appearances in the media by country in 2020



policies and developments in international law.

Publications

The Institute released a total of 63 publications in 2020. Around 42,000 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 34 peer-reviewed articles in 2020. Altogether, over 200 external publications were published.

The quarterly journal of the Institute, Ulkopoliitikka (Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs) maintained a circulation of ca. 2,000. In its 2020 issues, the Journal dealt with themes such as the end of globalization and the EU's geopolitical role.

Media Appearances

FIIA's media visibility was on a high level throughout the year. The most significant themes were, Covid-19 and USA's presidential election. Other topics in which FIIA had wide visibility included political situation in Russia and developments in Belarus.

In 2020, ca 4,060 hits for the Institute were recorded in online, television, radio and print media. FIIA's media visibility increased especially on social media. FIIA was mentioned 3 010 times on social media in 2020 in Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. The vast majority of the hits resulted from interviews with FIIA researchers.

Seminar Activity

2020 was a busy year for FIIA's seminar activity with 61 organised seminars and roundtable discussions. The seminars attracted 3,665 participants altogether.

FIIA Publication Series 2020

Selected FIIA Reports

[Great-power competition and the rising US-China rivalry: Towards a new normal?](#)

Bart Gaens, Ville Sinkkonen

[Climate Change and Populism: Comparing the populist parties' climate policies in Denmark, Finland and Sweden](#)

Antto Vihma, Gunilla Reischl, Astrid Nonbo Andersen, Sofie Berglund

[Ukraine and its regions: Societal trends and policy implications](#)

Ryhor Nizhnikau, Arkady Moshes

[Sharpening EU sanctions policy: Challenges and responses in a geopolitical era](#)

Niklas Helwig - Juha Jokela - Clara Portela - Ville Sinkkonen - Matti Pesu

Selected FIIA Working Papers

[The emergence of strategic capitalism: Geoeconomics, corporate statecraft and the repurposing of the global economy](#)

Henrique Choer Moraes, Mikael Wigell

[China's responsibility for the Covid-19 pandemic: An international law perspective](#)

Katja Creutz

[Uzbekistan's new Central Asia policy: The economic rationale and political implications of good neighbourliness](#)

Kristiina Silvan

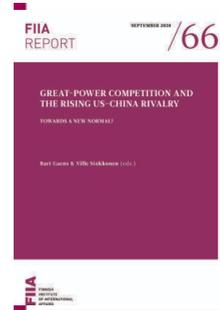
[EU peace mediation in the 2020s: From intervention to investment](#)

Tynte Karjalainen

[The European Green Deal: Assessing its current state and future implementation](#)

Marco Siddi

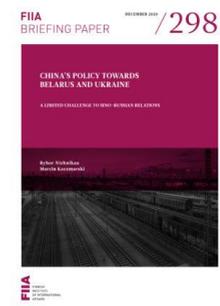
FIIA Reports



FIIA Working Papers



FIIA Briefing Papers



FIIA Briefing Papers



FIIA Comments



Selected FIIA Briefing Papers

[China's policy towards Belarus and Ukraine: A limited challenge to Sino-Russian relations](#)

Ryhor Nizhnikau, Marcin Kaczmarek

[Digital authoritarianism in China and Russia: Common goals and diverging standpoints in the era of great-power rivalry](#)

Elina Sinkkonen, Jussi Lassila

[Germany's EU Council presidency: Navigating the post-Covid political landscape](#)

Tuomas Iso-Markku, Niklas Helwig

[Recalibrating EU-India relations: A shift away from a trade-based partnership?](#)

Bart Gaens, Emma Hakala

[The Helsinki Process and its applicability: Towards regional security-building in the Persian Gulf](#)

Mikael Wigell, Mika Aaltola, Mariette Hägglund

[Turkey in Africa: Chasing markets and power with a neo-Ottoman rhetoric](#)

Toni Alaranta

[Covid-19 bends the rules on internal border controls: Yet another crisis undermining the Schengen acquis?](#)

Saila Heinikoski

Selected FIIA Comments

[Belarus without Lukashenko: How it became a realistic scenario](#)

Arkady Moshes, Ryhor Nizhnikau

[Is China preparing to invade Taiwan? The time may be opportune, but the overall situation is not](#)

Jyrki Kallio

[Finland's response to the Covid-19 epidemic: Long-term preparation and specific plans](#)

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