

FIIA

FINNISH INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ENGLISH

FIIA Activities in 2021

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 60 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 2021 was the second year of the three-year research programme period.

In 2021, 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 and the Union's internal political dynamics, 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.

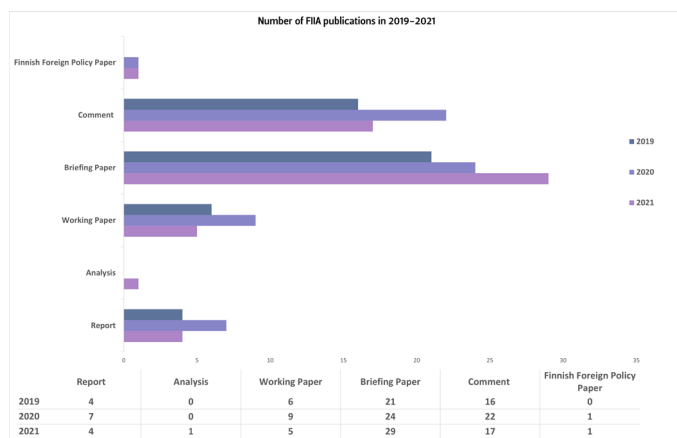
The European Union research programme focused largely on EU's external relations. The debate on EU's strategic autonomy was examined broadly with reference to increasing geoeconomic competition as well EU's trade policy. The programme also focused on changing conflict dynamics as well as civilian crisis management operations. Regarding the EU's Green Deal, the programme continued to study its external implications including a study on the geopolitics of renewables. In terms of the Union's internal dynamics, the programme focused on the legacy of Angela Merkel and implications of Germany's federal elections for the EU. The programme also produced a major

study on differentiation in EU's foreign and security policy within a Horizon 2020 project.

In 2021 the research programme on the EU's eastern neighbourhood and Russia closely followed the on-going strengthening of authoritarianism and repression in Russia, which is key to the understanding of country's foreign policy moves. Besides, the research dealt with the evolution of Russia's nationalities' policy. As far as the processes the EU eastern neighborhood are concerned, significant attention was, as before, paid to internal and external developments in and around Belarus, challenges of reforms in Ukraine and the unfolding security crisis. Central Asian countries remained on the research agenda, including conflicts among them. In the context of the 30th anniversary of the disintegration of the USSR the programme prepared analytical publications exposing the erosion of the Russian influence in the

post-Soviet space.

In 2021, the research programme on global security focused on great power relations, especially the US-China rivalry and its effects upon global politics and the rules-based international order. Regional foci were the United States with the Center on US Politics and Power, and Asia, particularly with regard to China's foreign policy and global role, but also the Indo-Pacific region. Geoeconomics formed a cross-cutting theme for the programme's extensive research agenda. The programme also encompassed the Nordic network and several externally funded projects on Nordic cooperation, climate change, climate security, and geoeconomics.



All media exposure in 2021

Media	Mentions	%	Potential reach	%	Reactions	%
Finnish online	3 359	+ 24%	3 073M	+ 25%	245 553	- 3%
Finnish print	2 037	+ 30%	123M	+ 40%	-	-
Global online	839	+ 76%	4 426M	+ 306%	91 745	+ 372%
Total	6 235	+ 32%	7 646M	+ 110%	337 298	+ 24%
Social	10 946	+ 264%	53M	+ 217%	29 942	+ 388%

Publications

The Institute released a total of 57 publications in 2021. Around 38,000 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 31 peer-reviewed articles in 2021. Altogether, over 150 external publications were published.

The quarterly journal of the Institute, Ulkopoliitikka (Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs) continued expanding its readership online and generating conversation in the Finnish public in its 60th anniversary year 2021. In its issues, the Journal dealt with themes such as human rights and the evolution of intelligence.

Media Appearances

FIIA's media visibility was on a high level throughout the year. The significant number of researchers commented on various foreign policy issues such as the foreign policy of Russia and the developments in Belarus, local elections and developments, climate change and great power relations.

In 2021, ca 6,200 hits for the Institute were recorded in online, television, radio and print media. FIIA's media visibility continued to increase on social media. FIIA was mentioned 10 946 times on social media in 2021 in Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. The vast majority of the hits resulted from interviews with FIIA researchers.

Seminar Activity

2021 was a busy year for FIIA's seminar activity with 86 organised seminars and 5500 participants.

FIIA Publication Series 2021

Selected FIIA Reports

[The Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands in Nordic cooperation](#)

Katja Creutz, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark

[Nordic cooperation amid pandemic travel restrictions](#)

Katja Creutz, Sofie Berglund, Telli Betül Karacan, Alberto Giacometti, Kristin Haugevik, Ninna Nyberg Sørensen, Mari Wøien Meijer, Axa Lares

[Ilmastonmuutos ja Suomen turvallisuus: Uhat ja varautuminen kokonaisturvallisuuden toimintamallissa](#)

Emma Hakala, Sanna Erkamo, Juha Pyykönen, Heikki Tuomenvirta, Oras Tynkkynen, Kati Berninger, Antto Vihma

[Strategic autonomy and the transformation of the EU: New agendas for security, diplomacy, trade and technology](#)

Niklas Helwig (ed.)

Selected FIIA Working Papers

[China and geoeconomic dynamics in Central Asia: Balancing global strategies, local interests and multiple partners](#)

Aliya Tshkay

[Russia's nationalities policy before and after the 2020 constitutional amendments: Is the "ethnic turn" continuing?](#)

Veera Laine, Konstantin Zamyatin

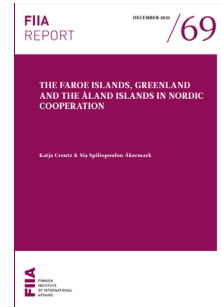
[Trump's attack on American democracy: Towards a new model of electoral manipulation in an established democratic republic](#)

Maria Annala

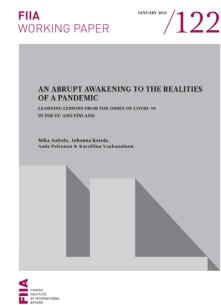
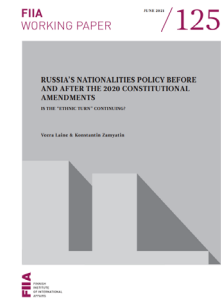
[An abrupt awakening to the realities of a pandemic: Learning lessons from the onset of Covid-19 in the EU and Finland](#)

Mika Aaltola, Johanna Ketola, Aada Peltonen, Karoliina Vaakanainen

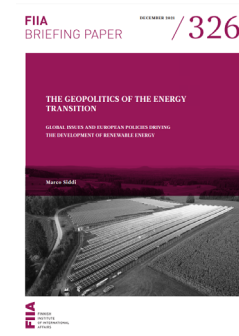
FIIA Reports



FIIA Working Papers



FIIA Briefing Papers



FIIA Comments



Selected FIIA Briefing Papers

[The geopolitics of the energy transition: Global issues and European policies driving the development of renewable energy](#)

Marco Siddi

[China's foreign policy at the centennial of the Communist Party: Prestige above all](#)

Jyrki Kallio

[Turkey's relations with the US and the EU at the beginning of the Biden presidency: Prospects for change?](#)

Toni Alaranta

[Ukraine's half-hearted reforms: What needs to change in the West's approach?](#)

Arkady Moshes, Ryhor Nizhnikau

[Rule-bending debates in recent Finnish EU policy: Pacta sunt servanda?](#)

Saila Heinikoski

FIIA Analysis

[The EU's strategic approach to CSDP interventions: Building a tenet from praxis](#)

Tyne Karjalainen, Ville Savoranta

Selected FIIA Comments

[Afghanistan and the rise of the Islamic Emirate: A tragic inevitability](#)

Olli Ruohomäki

[Water and fire at Kyrgyz-Tajik border: Ferghana Valley's security environment could take a turn for the worse](#)

Kristiina Silvan

[President Niinistö's two-track initiative: towards stronger Arctic dialogue and revitalization of the Helsinki Spirit?](#)

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