Report

NORDIC RESILIENCE: STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON SECURITY OF SUPPLY AND CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

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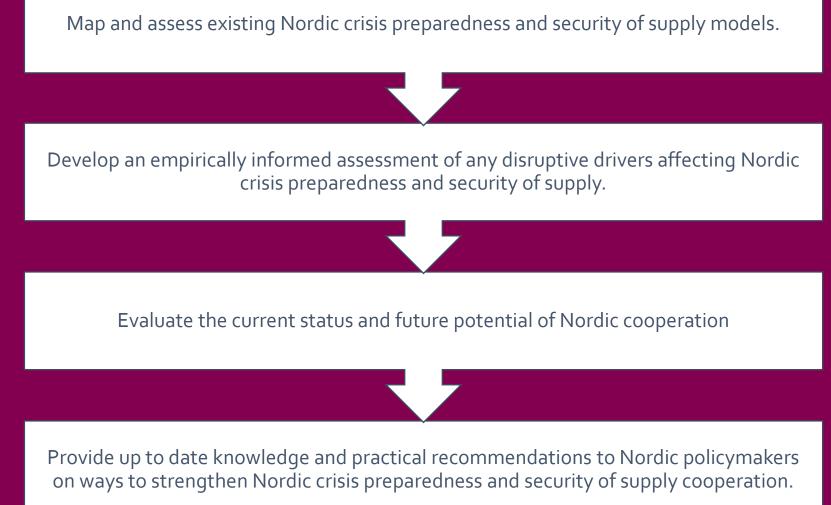
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Project Goals



FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Research Framework

- Document review:
 - research literature and policy documents across the Nordics
- Expert interviews
 - Total of 53 interviews with 85 interviewees across the Nordics
 - Length of each interview 30-90 minutes
- Focus group validation
 - Workshop with 11 selected experts to validate and test research findings and gather views for policy recommendations
- The most comprehensive study of Nordic crisis preparedness and security of supply to date providing a wealth of new comparative data and analysis



Structure of the report

Introduction Ch 1: Threat perceptions Ch 2: Key concepts and definitions Ch 3: Actors and responsibilities Ch 4: Vital functions of society Ch 5: Public-private dialogue Ch 6: Collaborative frameworks Conclusion



Ch 1: Threat perceptions

- All the Nordic countries apply an *all-hazards approach* in their preparedness planning
- The shared all-hazards approach provides potential for Nordic cooperation, and thereby achieving better risk assessment and situational awareness through joint work.
- In practice, it would mean sharing of situational awareness and joint foresight and scenario reports



Ch 2: Key concepts and definitions

- No shared Nordic terminology hindrance to cooperation
- Yet, despite the conceptual Babel, approaches are shared in practice (societal security, whole-of-government, whole-ofsociety)
- *Resilience* a functional umbrella concept towards a joint Nordic approach



Ch 4: Vital functions of society

- At present, no common understanding or framework for critical functions among the Nordics
- However, *societal security* a common notion, with societal involvement in safeguarding vital functions considered essential
- The idea of vital functions supports the characteristically Nordic all-hazards and whole-of-society approaches in preparedness planning
- Significant potential to improve information sharing on vital functions. Here, Nordic cooperation can benefit from the EU's CER Directive and NATO's baseline requirements



Ch 5: Public-private dialogue

- The Nordics one of the most interconnected regions of the world, highly reliant on well-functioning international markets, and with critical functions of society usually in hands of the private sector
- At present, all Nordics suffer from vulnerabilities associated with insufficient private sector preparedness and collaboration on which the Nordic states rely for their supply lines and critical functions
- Preparedness and crisis response require extensive collaboration among authorities, businesses and industry organisations at a regional level



Ch 6: Collaborative frameworks

- The interviews identified broad and strong willingness across the Nordics to increase Nordic cooperation. Further cooperation could be built on societal resilience thinking shared by all the Nordics
- Yet, interviews noted how concrete priorities and resources needed both at the national and Nordic levels
- Elements identified in the interviews for enhancing Nordic cooperation included
 - establishing a network or permanent forum for expert exchange and joint exercises
 - mapping of relevant actors in different Nordic countries
 - Iong-term funding allocated specifically to Nordic cooperation, including public-private collaboration.



Key takeaways (1) : Nordic cooperation needed

- The Nordics are all dependent on international flows of critical goods, products and services. Alone, none of them can be self-sufficient in many critical sectors, but together they have many complementarities.
- As a deeply interconnected region, the Nordics also share many of the threats facing them, so that a crisis in one will have deep repercussions on the others.
- By using the asymmetries in their international and internal dependencies to their benefit, the Nordics can collectively strengthen their crisis preparedness and security of supply.
- In interconnected and interdependent systems, the source of resilience lies in cooperation.



Key takeaways (2) : Joint Nordic approach already exists!

- Four central traits widely shared by all the Nordics. Together, these features form what this report calls *the Nordic resilience approach*.
 - Whole-of-society approach
 - Whole-of-government approach
 - > All-hazards approach
 - Societal resilience thinking



Recommendations (1): A Nordic Resilience Framework Agreement

- Existing bi- and multilateral agreements do not provide a shared framework for region-wide cooperation the *Nordic resilience framework agreement* would act as an "umbrella" agreement, stating the scope, shared objectives, principles and modus operandi for Nordic resilience cooperation
- It would *not* replace any existing agreements, but enable the long-term strategic development of Nordic cooperation in a flexible manner
- It would elevate the concept of *Nordic resilience*
- The Haga cooperation for civil protection and preparedness should be positioned within the agreement and include the self-governing regions



Recommendations (2): Shared Risk Perceptions and Foresight

- A shared understanding of dependencies, risks, threats and vulnerabilities essential for purposeful and sustainable Nordic resilience cooperation
- Potential instruments include:
 - > Expert risk workshops
 - Sharing of situational awareness
 - > Joint strategic foresight and scenario-building reports
 - Scenario-based tabletop exercises
- The Nordic Security Agreement of 2013 provides a legal basis for the exchange of classified information. The Finnish and Swedish pending NATO memberships in NATO will further the exchange of classified information



Recommendations (3): A Nordic Resilience Fund (NRF)

- Instrumental in crisis situations and for joint operations, including joint acquisition, production, manufacturing and distribution of critical supplies
- Co-financed by the Nordics in the form of contributions agreed upon for each five-year term
- Its uses would be detailed in the fund's statutes, and its key thematics divided into programmes, directed by the fund's governing body assisted by a secretariat
- Examples that could be used are e.g. the Finnish National Emergency Supply Fund or New Zeeland's Civil Defence Emergency Management Act



Recommendations (4): *Nordic Resilience Public-Private Network*

- Focus on security of supply cooperation
- Coordinate public-private exercises, including ones that bring together operational, societal and governmental actors at the Nordic level
- The Nordic resilience fund could cover the cost of the network and used towards financing joint capabilities such as flexible manufacturing capabilities and pooling of critical materials, equipment and parts

