

Report

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

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Project Goals

Map and assess existing Nordic crisis preparedness and security of supply models.

Develop an empirically informed assessment of any disruptive drivers affecting Nordic crisis preparedness and security of supply.

Evaluate the current status and future potential of Nordic cooperation

Provide up to date knowledge and practical recommendations to Nordic policymakers on ways to strengthen Nordic crisis preparedness and security of supply cooperation.

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-of-society)
- *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
 - long-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 Zealand'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