

FIIA

FINNISH INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ENGLISH

FIIA Activities in 2023

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.

In 2023, the Director of the Institute was Dr. Mika Aaltola. FIIA currently employs about 64 people, over half of whom are researchers.

Research

The Institute has four Research Programmes.

The European Union and Strategic Competition research programme focuses on the European Union and its role in the context of growing strategic competition, the EU's global and regional role, and the internal dynamics of the EU. The main research themes are the EU's external relations, general political directions and institutional development.

The Russia, EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Eurasia research programme focuses on processes that affect foreign and security policy in the Eastern neighbourhood of the EU with a special emphasis on Russia domestic and foreign policy. In particular, the programme concentrates on political developments in the region, transformations in the region's key countries, 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 and Governance research programme focuses on the evolving nature of international economic and political relations in a situation where great powers, regional power politics and connectivity are strengthening. The programme pursues an academic and policy-oriented research agenda examining 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 Finnish Foreign Policy, Northern European Security and NATO research programme was launched in 2023, and it focuses on analysing Finnish foreign,

security and defence policy, the security environment in Northern Europe, and NATO activities.

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 public.

Summary of Activities

Research Focus Areas

The year 2023 was the first year of the three-year research programme period.

The ongoing research programme period continues pursuing the main topics from the previous research programme period, the themes being 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 the foreign policy and international role of the US and China. Additionally, a new fourth research programme called Finnish Foreign Policy, Northern European Security and NATO was established. Its functions began toward the end of 2022. The four research programmes are brought together by the themes of relations between the great powers and geoeconomics.

In 2023, *the European Union and Strategic Competition research programme* focused on the global role of the EU. One of the most relevant research topics was the Union's external relations while strategic competition increased globally. Cooperation in the Middle East and Africa was studied extensively. Research on the Union's economic relations, green transition and digital leap was reinforced compared to previous years. Research also focused on common foreign and security policy and collective defense in the EU.

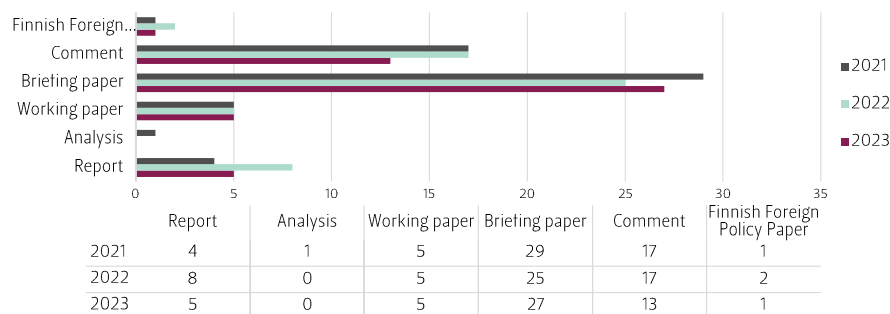
The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme continued researching the dynamics of Russian politics: actors, networks, and changes in interests and power. The war in Ukraine and the prolonged political crisis in Belarus were primary areas of research. The programme also studied strategic thinking and ideologies that drive Russian foreign policy and compared them with government action. Factors of change in the EU's eastern neighbourhood were also studied closely. Uncertain visions for the future and economic, social and security challenges form a crucial issue for Europe as a whole. Energy policy, governmental issues, social change, political climate, and security strategies are very sensitive topics in the entire area.

The Global Security research programme focused on the complexity of power and use of force, diversity and dispersal of political actors, and increased competition in global politics. The struggle for global leadership through geoeconomics and technology was researched from institutions to

areas in joint use (cyber, space, marine traffic, and infrastructure for example). Simultaneously, the programme addressed the need to understand the geostrategic rivalry between the US and China. Research on global governance focused on how multilateral institutions like the UN and WTO manage in a deteriorating system of multilateral cooperation. Climate change was examined as a source of crises, conflicts, geopolitical challenges, and challenges to governance. In 2023, two new research centers were launched under this programme: The Center on Global Orders and China (CORD) and the Center on Climate Politics and Security (CLIPS).

Foreign Policy, Northern European Security and NATO research programme was launched in 2023. During the first year, research focused on geostrategic developments in the Arctic, security in the Baltic Sea region, and Nordic cooperation. In addition, the programme examined Russian foreign, security and defense policy particularly regarding Northern Europe. NATO research at FIIA was mostly carried out in this programme, focusing on Finnish NATO policy and NATO's activities in Northern Europe.

Number of FIIA publications in 2021–2023



All media exposure in 2023

Summary of media exposure in 2023

Media	Mentions	%	Potential reach	%	Reactions	%
Finnish online media	6028	-39	8415M	-30	331,17	-84
Finnish print media	2415	-33	302M	+51	-	-
Global online media	5981	-35	15,842M	-61	84,678	-95
Total	14,424	-36	24,560M	-54	415,848	-89
Social media	28,950	-43	247M	-15	124,947	-64

Publications

The Institute released a total of 51 publications in 2023. Around 40,206 publication downloads/views were recorded from the website.

FIIA's researchers also published widely outside the Institute, including books, 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 46 peer-reviewed articles in 2023. Altogether, over 269 external publications were published, exceeding the total of the previous year by 99 external publications.

The Institute's journal *Ulkopolitiikka* (Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs) was published quarterly still on paper, but preparations for the renewal were already underway during the year, for example by driving down magazine subscription sales which ended at the turn of the year.

Media Appearances

FIIA's media visibility became even more versatile in 2023 with researchers playing a central role in public discussions on Finnish foreign policy, EU matters as well as the war in Ukraine that began in 2022.

In 2023, nearly 15,000 hits for the Institute were recorded in online, television, radio and print media. FIIA's overall media visibility decreased by 36 % compared to the previous year, as 2022 was a year of exceptional events in global politics. Compared to 2021, FIIA's global media visibility increased by 613 %. FIIA's media visibility resulted largely from researchers' interviews on the war in Ukraine and Finland's NATO application process. FIIA's researchers maintained their image as top experts of foreign policy and security.

Seminar Activity

In 2023, FIIA organized 88 seminars which is a slight increase to 2022.

FIIA Publications 2023

Selected FIIA Reports

[Water diplomacy analysis for Central Asia: Dynamics of insecurity and sources of resilience](#)

Emma Hakala, Katariina Mustasilta & Mohammed Hadi

FIIA Report 73

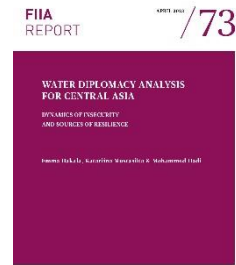
April 2023

[Enhancing small state preparedness: The risks of foreign ownership, supply disruptions and technological dependencies](#)

Mikael Mattlin, Elina Sinkkonen, Shaun Breslin, Liisa Kauppi, Björn Cappelin, Ines Söderström & Matt Ferchen

FIIA Report 74

August 2023



Selected FIIA Working Papers

[Ideational trends in American grand strategy: Future implications for Europe and Finland](#)

Ville Sinkkonen

FIIA Working Paper 132

March 2023

[EU enlargement in wartime Europe: Three dimensions and scenarios](#)

Työne Karjalainen

FIIA Working Paper 136

October 2023



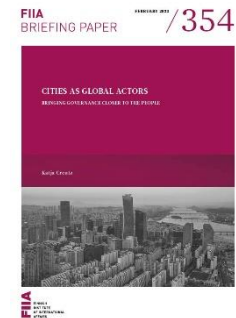
Selected Finnish Foreign Policy Papers

[The deepened defence cooperation between Finland and the United States: From non-alignment to defence alliance and allies closer than ever](#)

Henri Vanhanen, Charly Saloniemi-Pasternak, Ville Sinkkonen

Finnish Foreign Policy Paper 10

June 2023



Selected FIIA Briefing Papers

[Cities as global actors: Bringing governance closer to the people](#)

Katja Creutz

FIIA Briefing Paper 354

February 2023

[Russian blackmail and the Black Sea Grain Initiative: The \(limited\) impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security](#)

Timo R. Stewart

FIIA Briefing Paper 360

April 2023

[Outlining EU-Turkey relations: The impacts of the Ukraine war and Turkey's crucial elections](#)

Toni Alaranta

FIIA Briefing Paper 364

June 2023



[Climate change and security: Preparing for different impacts](#)

Emma Hakala

FIIA Briefing Paper 369

September 2023

[Finland in a nuclear alliance: Recalibrating the dual-track mindset on deterrence and arms control](#)

Matti Pesu & Tapio Juntunen

FIIA Briefing Paper 375

November 2023



Selected FIIA Comments

[Russia's tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus: Consolidating a sphere of influence](#)

Jyri Lavikainen

FIIA Comment 4

April 2023

[Deterring Russia in Ukraine: The only way to achieve sustainable peace](#)

Sinikukka Saari

FIIA Comment 13

December 2023



FINNISH INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FIIA Contact Details

Address

Finnish Institute of International Affairs
Arkadiankatu 23 B
00100 Helsinki

Mailing address

Finnish Institute of International Affairs
P.O. Box 425
FI-00101 Helsinki, Finland

Telephone

+ 358 9 432 7000

Email

firstname.lastname@fii.fi
kirjaamo@fii.fi

Website

www.fii.fi

Subscribe to FIIA's Newsletter at

www.fii.fi/en/introduction/join

Social Media

https://x.com/fiia_fi

LinkedIn: The Finnish Institute
of International Affairs

Instagram: fii_upi