

# Societal Security Strategy of the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)

Societal security fact box:

**Societal security** is the protection of society against events that threaten fundamental values and functions and put life and health at risk. Such events may be triggered by nature, or be the result of technical or human error, or intentional acts.

**State security**, or “the security of the realm”, is not usually included in societal security. State security deals with what has traditionally been described as defence and security policy and mainly affects the upper part of the spectrum of crises. However, there are grey areas and overlapping interests between societal security and state security.

This is a summary version of FFI’s Societal Security Strategy. Through research and knowledge development, FFI will be a contributor to national societal security across the entire spectrum of crises.

As the defence sector’s primary research institute, FFI has special responsibility in terms of managing information that may hold significance for the security of the realm. This provides unique access to information that is necessary for understanding threats and implementing appropriate countermeasures. In addition, information must be handled at the correct level.

## Changes in the risk and threat landscape

The security policy situation is rapidly changing, which makes predicting developments and implementing appropriate measures challenging. Hybrid warfare is playing a part in erasing the boundary between war and insurrection. In addition, increased expert knowledge, more organised crime and global technological development have led to greater opportunity to carry out intentional acts and terrorism. Close ties between extremist circles and foreign fighters returning home may necessitate closer collaboration between the police and the Armed Forces.

Other challenges are climate change, population growth, demography, migration, food and environmental security, developments in the High North, maritime security, CBRNE incidents, pandemics and digital space vulnerabilities. Some of these challenges may be used as tools to carry out illegal or security-threatening acts.

Societal and technological development results in cross-sectoral dependencies increasing and becoming more complex. This affects the vulnerability of our society. Society is currently facing a broader and more complex risk and threat landscape than in the past. Development aspects have resulted in changes to the prerequisites for good societal and state security.

## The Total Defence concept

The so-called Norwegian “Total Defence concept” paves the way for the optimal use of society’s collective resources, both civil and military, during peacetime, security policy crises and armed conflict. It entails mutual support and cooperation between the Armed Forces and civil society through prevention, preparedness planning, crisis management and consequence management.

The use of hybrid warfare has become a tool that challenges the boundary between civil and military to a much greater extent than before. The foundation of a well-run Total Defence is a good national societal security and preparedness chain.

## Strategy objectives and measures

FFI's objective is to conduct relevant and sound research and knowledge development in order to improve national societal security and state security. The institute provides advice and recommendations to authorities and actors within military and civil preparedness.

- FFI will use its research model, based on close and long-term interaction between public administration and research, to support policy decisions and public administration structure.
- Using its links within the Armed Forces' security industry, FFI will further develop collaborative projects between the industry and FFI within the field of societal security.

FFI has performed societal security research through the project series "Protection of Society" (BAS) for more than 20 years. The long-term objective of the BAS series of projects is to contribute to a thoroughly prepared concept of population and societal protection, and furthermore to support the prioritisation of protective measures, preparedness planning and crisis management across sectors.

- FFI will continue to develop BAS as a "hub" within societal security research at the institute and derive necessary expertise from different internal specialist environments.
- FFI will continue to disseminate the findings from BAS and other R&D activities to national and international actors so that the findings can benefit a greater number of parties.
- FFI has a high level of expertise within societal security research, including within:
  - Cyber security
  - Terrorism and countermeasures
  - CBRNE
  - Communication
  - Environmental security
  - Unmanned systems and autonomy
  - Sensor technology
  - Ballistic protection
  - Crisis management, exercises and experiential learning
  - Strategic planning and long-term planning
  - Modelling and simulation
  - Space activity
  - Maritime security
- FFI will continue to aim towards participation in EU research programmes, as well as the EU's H2020 Secure Societies programme.

Societal security research in Norway is experiencing strong growth at several universities, colleges and institutes, as well as within authorities and public agencies with responsibility for societal security.

- FFI will seek and further develop collaboration with authorities and agencies with societal security responsibilities, as well as with universities, colleges, institutes and other relevant actors.
- FFI will establish strategic collaborations with selected actors within societal security.
- FFI will focus on areas within which the institute already has solid and recognised expertise, or where it is well qualified to develop its expertise within societal security.
- FFI will work towards playing a central role in societal security research at national level.
- FFI will further develop international cooperation on societal security.
- FFI will build bridges between military and civil preparedness actors.
- FFI will work to promote the application of technological solutions for societal security.
- FFI will keep the needs of the user in focus.

Global changes in society have consequences for the structure of the Armed Forces. This influences FFI's work for the defence sector. FFI will consistently take research findings forward so that the institute will always have a sufficient level of knowledge development to give recommendations and advice, and deal with complex issues within societal security and state security.

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