

FIIA ^{3/2016} NEWSLETTER

FIIA has concluded two projects that focused on EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and the role of Russia in Finland's neighbouring areas. In addition, the 3rd Helsinki Summer Session focused on various transatlantic topics.

Russia's changing role in Finland's neighbourhood

FIIA has conducted a one-year research project entitled "Russia's changing role in Finland's neighbourhood". The final report examined Russia's political system, the country's energy and Arctic policies as well as its role in the Baltic Sea region security environment and made policy recommendations for the Finnish government.

In October, a Finnish Foreign Policy Paper will be published summarising the conclusions of the project in English.

The project was part of the implementation of the Government Plan for Analysis, Assessment and Research for 2015. It was directed by **Teija Tiilikainen** and supervised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. At FIIA, the project was coordinated by **Toivo Martikainen**, and several FIIA researchers contributed to the project.

Key Actors in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood

On 13 September, FIIA organised the seminar "Changing Geostrategic Tensions around Ukraine" with Dr Stephen Blank as the keynote speaker. The seminar marked the launch of the FIIA report "Key Actors in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood: Competing perspectives on geostrategic tensions" edited by **Kristi Raik** and **Sinikukka Saari**.



NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow gave the keynote speech at the FIIA seminar "NATO in Transatlantic Security Policy" on 1 September. Photo: Alvar Aalto-Setälä / FIIA.

Bringing together both FIIA researchers and external experts, the report explores the interests and policies of major states and organisations in the region - EU, Russia, US, Turkey, China and the OSCE. The report concludes that EU foreign policy should not shy away from confrontation at any price, and highlights the need for a more confident and proactive EU foreign policy in the eastern neighbourhood.

The analytical framework of the report was developed during a workshop held in January 2016 in Helsinki, where the authors of individual chapters exchanged ideas with a number of FIIA researchers.

3rd annual Helsinki Summer Session

In September, the Center on US Politics and Power (CUSPP) at FIIA organised the 3rd Helsinki Summer Session on the US Policies in Northern Europe.

This year's themes included US foreign policy after Obama, US-Russia relations, Transatlantic economic relations, NATO in Transatlantic security policy, societal security, stability and cyber, global governance and the US dimension of security in the Northern Baltic Sea Region.

Helsinki Summer Session gathered researchers and experts from the United States and Europe. Keynote speeches were given by **Alexander Vershbow**, **Stephen Flanagan**, Donald Jensen, Bruce Oreck, Ronald Marks and James Traub. A FIIA Report based on the Summer Session presentations will be published later.

The CUSPP activities strengthen FIIA's international networks and research on the US global role. Within the framework of CUSPP's Visiting Research Fellow programme, Senior Visiting Fellow **Leo Michel**, an expert on US foreign and defence

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policy, is currently visiting FIIA and Senior Research Fellow [Antto Vihma](#) will visit MIT in Boston in Oct-Nov.

Staff News

Dr. [Bart Gaens](#) has been appointed Project Director for the Institute's Center on US Politics and Power (CUSPP).

Dr. [Olli Ruohomäki](#) has joined the Global Security research programme as a Visiting Senior Fellow for a 12-month period in the framework of the exchange programme with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He is an expert on Southeast and South Asia and development and security issues.

There is an [open vacancy](#) in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme.

Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs

The 3rd issue of the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs in 2016 was pub-

lished in September. The issue focused on the [future of democracy](#), especially from the perspective of populism.

The Journal takes also a look at [how satellites are utilised in cyber espionage](#), and explores the background of the Brexit referendum and the course of Latin America.

The journal is available both as a [printed journal](#) and as an e-paper at [lehtiluukku.fi](#). The next issue is due in December.

Recent publications

All FIIA publications can be downloaded from the Institute's [website](#).

Reports

[Key Actors in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood: Competing perspectives on geostrategic tensions](#)
Kristi Raik & Sinikukka Saari

[Venäjän muuttuva rooli Suomen lähialueilla](#)
Toivo Martikainen, Katri Pynnöniemi, Sinikukka Saari & FIIA Working Group

FIIA Analysis

[International Law under Pressure Continued relevance in times of hardship](#)
Katja Creutz

FIIA Briefing Papers 198-201

[The EU-Turkey Stalemate: Detecting the Root Causes of the Dysfunctional Relationship](#)
Toni Alaranta

[Cyber Attacks Go Beyond Espionage: The Strategic Logic of State-sponsored Cyber Operations in the Nordic-Baltic Region](#)

Mika Aaltola

[China's Advance in Latin America: Geostrategic Implications for Europe, the US, and the Region Itself](#)

Mikael Wigell

[What's Going on in the USA? Explaining the Trump phenomenon](#)
Michael Haltzel

FIIA Comments

[EU energy policy: After the failed coup in Turkey, the EU should strengthen its energy independence and cut fossil fuel purchases from authoritarian regimes](#)
Marco Siddi

[A more self-assured Germany: the new white paper highlights Germany's readiness to bolster European security and defence](#)
Niklas Helwig & Tuomas Iso-Markku

[Ukraine, 25 years of independence: a strong nation deserves an effective state](#)
Arkady Moshes & András Rácz

[Moscow's European project is closed: "We need Russia" pleas will meet no response](#)
Arkady Moshes

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