



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

# Safety first

Internal Security  
Programme

Finland





## Objective of the Internal Security Programme

# Finland will be the safest country in Europe in 2015

The Government adopted a Resolution on the Internal Security Programme on 8 May 2008.

In the Programme the Government sets out the primary objectives and measures for internal security across administrative sectors. The Programme runs until 2015, and its principal objective is for Finland to be the safest country in Europe in 2015.

The Internal Security Programme was prepared through broad-based cooperation coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior, involving nearly 200 experts from 12 ministries, 22 government offices and agencies and 23 NGOs, along with the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and a number of research institutions.



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## Safety first – Internal Security Programme

The Internal Security Programme is a Government Resolution of 8 May 2008 which sets out the priorities, objectives and measures for the development of internal security across administrative sectors. The Programme specifies the key indicators that are used to report on the implementation and results of the Programme on a regular basis. The Internal Security Programme is valid for the current electoral period, and its implementation will be reviewed at the end of that period. The objectives of the Programme are set for the year 2015.

### What is internal security?

Internal security is a state of society where everyone can enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the rule of law and a safe society without the fear or insecurity caused by crime, disruptions, accidents or any other phenomena in Finnish society or the increasingly globalised world at large.

There are many factors which contribute to good internal security: a safe home, living environment and working environment; smoothly functioning basic services; a well-designed traffic environment; availability of help for those in need; and certainty that those who commit crimes will be brought to justice. Internal security also involves preparations for major accidents and other disruptions under normal conditions.



## Challenges in internal security

### ■ Social exclusion

Social exclusion has a wide impact on security, and it can lead to a life of crime. Transgenerational social exclusion undermines the security of children and adolescents. Social exclusion may also manifest itself in the form of non-participation in social activities or exclusion from society, which may lead to unpredictable behaviour.

### ■ Number of accidents

Finland has a particularly high number of accidents in the home and during leisure time, and the challenge is that the number will continue to increase as the population ages.

### ■ Relations between population groups

Finland is rapidly becoming more and more multicultural. Good relations between population groups promote security. The challenges here are successful integration and the prevention of social exclusion of immigrants.

■ **Violence**

Finland has a high rate of violence, much of it fuelled by alcohol. The challenge is to reduce the level of violence.

■ **Major accidents**

There is an increased risk of major accidents due to climate change and the increasing number of people moving to growth centres. As the volume of oil transports in the Gulf of Finland continues to grow together with passenger traffic, the risk of complex accidents becomes greater.

■ **Vulnerability of society**

The vulnerability of society is increased by risks inherent in the general ubiquity of and reliance on essential technological systems.

■ **Cross-border crime**

Organised crime has increased steadily in Finland and is more professional and organised than before. Organised crime uses, to an increasing extent, legitimate businesses as fronts for criminal activities.

■ **Cybercrime**

A sizeable cybercrime infrastructure has evolved. The challenge here is to ensure information network security, which is a prerequisite for secure e-services. The number of criminal groups operating online across borders is growing.

■ **Terrorism and violent radicalisation**

There is at the moment no direct terrorist threat against Finland. The challenge is to prevent the international threat of violent radicalisation by, for example, preventing social exclusion and increasing civic participation.

## Measures to improve internal security



**The Internal Security Programme contains a total of 74 measures which will be implemented through cooperation between the authorities, NGOs and the business sector. The implementation of the Programme will be monitored regularly.**

## Measures aimed at a general improvement in internal security

■ **The alcohol tax will be increased**, with a view to preventing social exclusion and alcohol problems and reducing alcohol consumption. The participation of security actors in broad-based early intervention will be strengthened and extended. Village activities and new ways of providing services will be promoted to maintain security in sparsely populated areas. Measures will be taken to create potential for NGO activities in order to prevent social exclusion.

■ **Knowledge about security issues will be improved** by creating a system where every pupil in comprehensive school will study to qualify for a security card. The expertise of various authorities in violence-related issues will be developed. A joint national programme for security exercises will be drawn up to prepare for major accidents.

■ **Violence indicator systems will be developed and victim surveys conducted** regularly as part of internal security research. A research programme will be created together with the business sector to raise the level of Finnish security research to the level of our competitor countries.

■ **Situational awareness will be developed** by setting up an intersectoral situational awareness system in the regional administration, the creation of proactive situational awareness in the local and regional administration will be supported, and a situational awareness review will be conducted twice a year to assess serious threats of disruption and accidents that endanger the continued operation of businesses, for the use of the business sector and individual businesses.

■ **Local security planning will be improved.** Priority is given to reducing violence and the number of accidents, preventing the harmful effects of alcohol and addressing security issues relating to ethnic minorities. The continuity of intersectoral cooperation in internal security will be ensured in the regional administration reform. Village plans will include security plans. Measures will be taken to help contract fire brigades carry out their duties.



■ **Better account will be taken of security and safety issues in planning for built-up areas** by drawing up a manual on the subject. A website will be built based on the manual, and training and public awareness in the field will be improved.

## Particular objectives and measures for specific aspects of internal security

■ **Safety in the home, during leisure time and in moving around will be improved** by setting out objectives and uniform principles and practices for accident prevention. Information exchange will be increased between regional rescue services and the National Public Health Institute. The potential for extending the scope of the domestic help credit to the added introduction of safety technology in households will be explored. Nursing and care facilities will be provided with automatic fire extinguishing systems.

■ **The security of immigrants and ethnic minorities will be improved** by drawing up a brochure on security services ('Safe in Finland') and by disseminating information on security services and the rights and obligations provided for by Finnish legislation. Issues relating to ethnic minorities will be included in the planning of the operations of the security authorities. Racially motivated crimes and racist messages on the Internet will be addressed effectively under criminal law. The teaching of minority religions will be examined.

■ **Violence will be reduced** by introducing a children's house model for providing assistance to children who are victims of sexual or physical abuse. Measures will be taken to set up a national network of shelters and victim support services along with a 24-hour free helpline for all victims of crime. Enticing children to meetings for the purpose of sexual abuse will be made a criminal offence. Resources and coordination for the prevention of domestic and family violence will be strengthened.

■ **Competitiveness will be boosted by increasing business security.** This will be achieved by creating a security portal where businesses can obtain information based on the one-stop shop principle. Rescue plans will be augmented with crime security plans. A common set of business security criteria will be created.

■ **Major accidents and environmental disasters will be prevented** by enhancing preparedness. The management of major accidents and environmental disasters will be improved and risk management for major accidents and environmental disasters will be further developed.

■ **To ensure effective border management, prevent illegal immigration and uphold customs security,** operational cooperation will be increased and extended to involve stakeholders. A plan of action against illegal immigration will be drawn up in cooperation with NGOs. Training related to immigration matters and illegal immigration will be improved and expanded.

■ **Human trafficking will be prevented** by increasing public awareness of human trafficking, clarifying the definition of human trafficking and related crimes and improving the reporting and monitoring of the human trafficking situation.

■ **Measures will be taken to combat organised crime** by enhancing national and international cooperation between authorities. Official reports on current threats in organised crime will be prepared for various sectors. Persons participating in the criminal investigation process will be protected through the setting up of a personal security unit.

■ **Cybercrime and Internet use risk will be prevented** by reviewing the legislation concerning cybercrime and ensuring that the means to carry out investigations are up-to-date and fit for purpose. Police resources for the prevention and investigation of cybercrime will be enhanced. The police will provide a centralised service system through which individual citizens, companies and organisations will be able to easily report cybercrimes or threats against information networks.

■ **Terrorism will be combated and illegal extremist activities and violent radicalisation prevented** by drawing up an anti-terrorism strategy. Cooperation structures will be established between authorities and between authorities and civil society in order to combat violent radicalisation.



## Implementation and monitoring of the measures

The ministries with the main responsibility for the measures will each draw up an implementation plan for the Internal Security Programme, which will be updated at regular intervals. The implementation of the Programme is directed by a ministerial working group on internal security and guided and monitored by a steering group. Annual reports will be drawn up regularly on the implementation of the Programme and the development of indicators. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for coordinating and harmonising the implementation of the Programme.



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## The ministry for internal security and migration



This brochure and the entire Programme are available in electronic form free of charge at the website of the Ministry of the Interior, [www.intermin.fi/en](http://www.intermin.fi/en).

### **Publisher**

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