

Activity Report 2017



Photo: Elias Vartio



Ålands fredsinstitut
The Åland Islands Peace Institute



Photo: Filip Holiencin

Good ideas need structures

Many initiatives and good ideas that arise in a society can be shared by many and have a lot of praise and appreciation, but nevertheless they end up being sidelined, and after a while they are more or less forgotten.

Around each viable idea, a context is required; a structure one may say, in order to support our individual variations of perseverance, inspiration and time for other things than ourselves.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) is an excellent example of how an idea through a structure becomes a bright contribution to the Åland Islands, Finland and the Nordic region as a whole - a society characterized by trust and cooperation, in short, a civil society that, in addition to authorities and companies, takes care of people's commitment to crucial issues. After 25 years of work, we can clearly state that this is the case.

The ÅIPI is a foundation which was established in 1992, the day following the UN-day i.e. October 25, 1992. Having as starting point a commitment for peace, knowledge and dissemination of information, a group of people gathered to give a more institutional framework for a more systematic work. Besides the opportunities for new contacts and projects during the undergoing transformation of the world by 1992 with the end of the Cold War, one wanted to take care of and develop the experience that Åland's international special position had since the beginning of the 20th century, a position that had survived both a hot and a cold war.

Since 1992, the Peace Institute has continuously worked with issues that are rooted in the triangle self-government – minority protection – security. Different periods of time have underlined different emphasis to the content of these

broad concepts. Åland and its special position have always been a guiding principle for the research priorities.

A 25th anniversary is both a respite and a take-off for new work. Through support from foundations in Åland, Finland and other Nordic countries, as well as from the Government of Åland, the Peace Institute has a solid ground to stand on to offer opportunities for ongoing activity. Its structure has been largely intact, with a Board and a Research Council whose members have showed great commitment and endurance. The 25th anniversary in 2017 was therefore a tribute not only to those people who worked on factual questions over the years, but also to all of them who in different management bodies and Boards were on hand in both easy and difficult times.

It feels important to emphasize in this activity report the words of gratitude and appreciation as in many different forms was conveyed to Barbro Sundback during the 25th anniversary of her equally long commitment as chairman of the Peace Institute's Board of Directors.

This activity report is partly coined by the Peace Institute 25th anniversary, but we will also note that the past year, 2017, offered a program and project activity with elements that complemented each other in a rewarding way. With the Kastelholm talks in the spring, a symposium in the fall as well as lunch seminars and research meetings during the spring and autumn, the institute has found a rhythm and balance between different types of actions that have worked well with the current staff.

With these words, we want to invite the reader to be part of the work of the Åland Islands Peace Institute 2017. Enjoy the reading!

Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Acting Director



2017

During 2017 the Åland Islands Peace Institute has:

- ... received visits from different parts of the world who want to know how the self-government, minority protection and demilitarisation can help resolve conflicts.
- ... participated in international seminars and research meetings on themes such as self-government, demilitarisation, Nordic peacekeeping, democracy and human rights. The Institute's Acting Director also participated in the peace and post conflict processes in Burma/Myanmar, East Timor and Colombia.
- ... conducted research on how Åland's demilitarisation and neutralisation can be affected by new forms of military cooperation in the Baltic Sea, in cooperation with the Arctic Center at University of Lapland.
- ... written and/or published about ten scientific articles.
- ... arranged six open lunch seminars with researchers and diplomats from Sweden, Finland and the Åland Islands on topics such as big power politics, the Swedish language's position in Finland, North Korea behind the headlines and the campaign against nuclear weapons.
- ... celebrated the 25th anniversary with a symposium about the Åland Islands in the future.
- ... held an e-course on territorial self-government and the Åland Islands for 17 students from 8 different countries.
- ... held a seminar on conflict resolution, security cooperation and Åland, for staff members at the Embassies in Helsinki, in cooperation with the Contact Group between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Government of Åland.
- ... hosted trainees from Hong Kong, Germany, Finland and Syria.
- ... arranged the Kastelholm talks about peace for the third time under the patronage of President Tarja Halonen at Kastelholm Castle. The seminar was held on Åland's demilitarisation day 30.3.2017 and the topic of discussion was "Finland as a neighbour – boundaries and boundlessness over the past century".
- ... mediated between parties in crimes and civil cases, through the Åland Islands Mediation Office and its voluntary mediators.

New Chairperson of the Board of Directors

After 25 years as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Peace Institute, Barbro Sundback has chosen to leave the Board. Roger Nordlund, Member of the Åland Parliament, former Speaker of the Åland Parliament and former Head of the Åland Government, has been elected new Chairperson.

The Board decides on the overall activities of the Institute. The Board is composed of seven to ten members appointed for a period of two years.

The Board has held five meetings during 2017. A new Board of Directors has been elected for the coming mandate period. Barbro Sundback, Susanne Eriksson, Lotta Angergård, Roger Jansson and Leena Lindqvist have completed their term and were thanked for their commitment and great work. The Board decided that the new Board should consist of eight members for the following term. Members Ulla

Backlund, Katarina Fellman, Kenneth Gustavsson, Göran Lindholm and Lia Markelin have been re-elected. Three new members have been elected: Nina Fellman, Minister in the Åland Government; Christian Pleijel Secretary General of the European Small Islands Federation and Roger Nordlund, Member of the Åland Parliament, former Speaker of the Åland Parliament and former Head of the Åland Government, who has been elected new chairperson. Ulla Backlund was elected Deputy Chairperson.

During the year, the new Board received

a closer insight into the various activities and projects of the Peace Institute. A working group within the Board has worked with transforming the salary system for the Peace Institution's staff. The subsidiary Fredsfast Ab has kept the Board informed about the renovation of the Institute's premises, other current property issues and inspirational ideas for the land plot.

*Justina Donielaite,
Organization Secretary
and Secretary of the Board*



Members of the Board

Mr Roger Nordlund, Chair of the Board, is a member of the Åland Parliament and a member of its Autonomy Committee. He was elected to the Åland Parliament for the first time in 1983 and has since been the Speaker of the Parliament and has held ministerial positions in the Åland Government, which he also chaired during the mandate period 1999 to 2007, when he was Head of Government. Nordlund has studied economics at the Åbo Akademi University.

Ms Ulla Backlund, Active in the Norwegian Refugee Council, former country director for the Council in Georgia, Burundi and Lebanon.

Ms Katarina Fellman, Master of Social Sciences and Head of Research at Statistics and Research Åland, ÅSUB.

Ms Nina Fellman, Minister in the Åland Government since 2015. For many years she was the editor-in-chief of the newspaper Nya Åland. As an activist committed to peace and security issues, Nina Fellman was engaged in the foundation of the Peace Institute in 1992.

Mr Kenneth Gustavsson, Antiquarian, PhD in archeology and Associate Professor of history. His focus is the strategical and political importance of Åland in the Baltic Sea during the 2000s, including the demilitarisation and neutralisation regimes.

Mr Göran Lindholm, Lawyer, has extensive experience in management and Board positions within the business world. Mr Lindholm was the former president of the insurance company Ålands ömsesidiga 1999-2015.

Ms Lia Markelin, PhD in Social Sciences from Bradford University in England, works as a research coordinator at the think tank Magma in Helsinki.

Mr Christian Pleijel, Director Sustainable Urban Systems at KTH Executive School and Secretary General of the European Small Islands Federation.

The Research of the Institute

The research has continued to follow the guidelines set out in the research plan 2015-17. At the same time, during this year the Research Council has worked with the new research programme, which will guide the work of the coming three years. The research will still focus on the same three thematic areas: security and demilitarisation, territorial autonomy and minorities. The ambition behind the new plan is that it shall present the research conducted in a relevant way for the general public and decision makers but also for the research community. It shall also support the staff of the ÅIPI and its Research Council in their work.

The demilitarisation project, which is now in its final stages, carried out a load of activities. Two of the researchers, the Doctoral Student Saira Heinikoski and Filip Holiencin, have during the year been based at the institute; Saira Heinikoski until her disputation in November 2017.

The project "Fragile Cities in the Global South: Societal Security, Environmental Vulnerability and Representative Justice", in which Kjell-Åke Nordquist is a researcher, will

be conducted partly at ÅIPI.

The ÅIPI's new e-publication Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies (JASS) was launched as planned in two issues during the year. It contains two to three articles (peer-reviewed) and additional reviews, comments and news. JASS is normally published in English. We hope that the journal will widen our readership and increase the knowledge about the Institute and our research. In addition, the new journal can hopefully provide us with contacts to more researchers and research communities that will promote our own research.



Gunilla Herolf, Chair of the Research Council

The Research Council decides on the Institute's scientific orientation and has a quality assurance function. During the mandate period of 2015-2017 the Council consists of Chairperson Gunilla Herolf, PhD, expert in European Integration issues and Security, Mikael Wigell, PhD, researcher at the Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Associate Professor of International Law and Head of Research of the Peace Institute. The Acting Director of the Institute, Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Professor in International Relations, serves as the secretary of the Council. The Council is assisted by the Institute's Research Coordinator Elias Vartio.



Photo: Elias Vartio

On March 15, a dialog was arranged in the museum of Åland with the researchers Willy Ostreng and Filip Holiencin on the theme of Spitzbergen and demilitarisation. Among the participants in the conversation were the researchers and advisors in the ongoing research project on demilitarisation as well as local politicians and public servants with particular interest in the topic.



Photo: EURAC Research

In the end of November, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark took part in a Research Council meeting arranged by the Institute for Minority Rights of EURAC in Bolzano/Bosen, South Tyrol. Sia is a member of the Institute's Research Council together with Prof. Dr. Joshua Castellino, Dr. Ilze Brands-Kehris, Prof. Dr. Ricard Zapata-Berrero and Prof. Dr. Petra Roter.

Research meetings on security, identity and autonomy



In January Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in the symposium "Spaces of Expectation" in Rome, where she spoke on "**Territoriality and Demilitarisation in the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean Regions**".

On April 2-4, Professor Kjell-Åke Nordquist was one of the key note speakers in a seminar in Alexandria, Egypt, arranged by the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and the Institute for Islamic Strategic Affairs. The title of the seminar was "**Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention**" and the focus was the Middle East and northern Africa.

On May 3, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark was invited to a research seminar on human rights at the University of Lund. She spoke on **identity, autonomy and security with Greenland and Åland as case studies**.

On March 9-10, Saila Heinikoski presented her research on the political science days in Jyväskylä. The theme this year was "**From the Welfare State to Neoliberalism – from Democracy to Post-Democracy?**".

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated on March 17 in the seminar on **Åland in the contemporary security political context** that was arranged by the Parliament of Åland for members and staff of the Parliament and the Åland Government.

In late June/early July Susann Simolin took part in "**Summer Institute: A World in Turmoil. Territory, Sharing Authority and Conflicts**" in Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy, hosted by the research institute EURAC.

In the beginning of August, Saila Heinikoski participated in NoPSA's XVIII Political Science Congress, where she presented a paper on Finland's foreign policy and the status of the demilitarisation regime in it. The workshop was called "**Foreign Policy: Nordic Perspectives and Beyond**".

On August 21-25, Elias Vartio took part in the 30th Helsinki Summer Seminar on international law "**The Ideal of the International – Principles, Backlash and Resistance**". The seminar was organised by the Eric Castrén Institute.

On August 23-24, a workshop "**Democracy, Human Rights and Peace. Contested and Reclaimed**" was arranged in Jyväskylä in cooperation with the University in Jyväskylä and the Civic Constellation II network. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Saila Heinikoski participated and held presentations.

In the end of September, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark presented a paper in the symposium "**Institutions and International Law in Eastern Europe**" arranged by Leibniz-Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe in Leipzig, Germany.

On November 11-15, Sia participated in the Polar Law Conference (Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi) and arranged the panel "**Identity and Security: Interconnected – but how?**" with two invited researchers, Joshua Castellino, UK and Olgun Akbulut, Turkey.

On December 4-5 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark was in Malaga and participated in her capacity as Vice Chair of the **RECAST network** in their planning conference with the purpose to support young researchers around Europe that are engaged in democracy and human rights issues.



Photo: EURAC Research, from Summer School in Bolzano/Bosen.

An Intensive and Productive Year for the Researchers of Demilitarisation

The Researchers in the project "Demilitarisation in an Increasingly Militarised World" completed during this year their first scientific articles and participated in different events and research meetings.

The project "Demilitarisation in an increasingly militarised world" runs for three years (2015 - 2018) with funding from the KONE Foundation and the Åland Cultural Foundation. The research project is a co-operation between the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Arctic Center at Lapland University in Rovaniemi. Four main researchers are involved in the project: Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (Associate Professor of International Law and Head of the Project), Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen (Lawyer, Post-doc), Timo Koivurova (Professor, Director of the Arctic Center, Rovaniemi) and PhD student Saira Heinikoski. The project also includes Research Assistant Filip Holiencin.

Based on International Law and European Integration, the researchers are studying how Åland's demilitarisation and neutralisation have been influenced by the development of modern technology, the fusion of military and civil actors and rules, as well as the impact of new forms of military

co-operation. The project also makes comparisons between Åland and other demilitarised areas, primarily Svalbard. Several articles and book chapters have been published in international journals during the year. The concluding publication of the project will take the form of a book that will be launched in 2018.

The following scientifically examined results have been published during 2017:

■ "The Åland Islands, Finland and European Security in the 21st Century", *Journal on Autonomy and Security Studies*, Vol. 1(1) 2017, 7-45 (open access). Saira Heinikoski.

■ "Pool It or Lose It? A Contrastive Analysis of Discourses Concerning EU Military Integration and Demilitarization in the Baltic Sea", *Journal on Baltic Security*, 2017; 3(1):32-47 (open access). Saira Heinikoski.

■ "Demilitarisation and Neutralisation of Svalbard: how has the Svalbard Regime been able to Meet the Changing Security Realities During Almost

100 Years of Existence?" (2017), *Polar Record* 53(2), 131-142. Timo Koivurova och Filip Holiencin.

■ "The Right of Innocent Passage: The Challenge of the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Implications for the Territorial Waters of the Åland Islands" in *The Future of the Law of the Sea: Bridging Gaps between National, Individual and Common Interests*, Gemma Andreone, Springer publisher, 2017, 239-269 (open access). Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen.

■ "The Meaning of Airspace Sovereignty Today – A Case Study on Demilitarisation and Functional Airspace Blocks" *86 Nordic Journal of International Law* (2017) 91-117. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

■ "The Puzzle of Collective Self-defence: Dangerous Fragmentation or a Window of Opportunity? An Analysis with Finland and the Åland Islands as a Case Study", *Journal of Conflict and Security Law* 2017 Vol. 22(2), 249-274. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

Beyond these, the project researchers have published numerous debate articles, popular scientific articles, blog posts and book reviews and participated in conferences and seminars in Finland, Sweden, Germany and several other countries.

In February 2017, two of the project researchers participated in the seminar "Åland as an Example: Perspectives on Conflict Resolution and Security Co-operation" that was arranged in Helsinki in co-operation with the Foreign Ministry, the Government of Åland and the ÅIPI.

The research project held a seminar about Svalbard in Mariehamn in March 2017, where also the international scientific advisors of the project participated. The project researcher Saira Heinikoski defended her thesis with the title "European Borders of Justice" at the University of Turku in November 2017.



Doctoral student Saira Heinikoski worked within the project until the end of the year and published several articles. In November she gained her PhD and was subsequently hired by the research unit of the Border Guard in Imatra.

*Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark,
Head of Research*

The Åland Islands Peace Institute launched a scientific e-journal

In May 2017 the Institute's open-access, electronic and peer-reviewed Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies (JASS) was launched. The second edition was published during the autumn. The journal is available on the domain www.jass.ax.



The overarching themes of the journal are peace and security, which are considered from the perspectives of autonomy, demilitarisation and minorities.

Acting Director Kjell-Åke Nordquist acted as Editor in Chief and Research Coordinator Elias Vartio as Managing Editor for the journal during 2017. The rest of the editorial team is made up of the members of the Research Council: Gunilla Herolf, Sia Spilioupoulou Åkermark and Mikael Wigell.

During the year the following peer reviewed articles were published:

- "The Åland Islands, Finland and European Security in the 21st Century", by Saila Heinikoski.
- "Mapping Historical Consciousness: Mental Maps of Time and Space among Secondary School Students from Ten Locations around the Baltic and Mediterranean seas", by Janne Holmén.
- "A Comparative Study of the Autonomy Arrangement of the Former Netherlands Antilles in relation to

the Åland Example", by Lotte Tange.

- "Rethinking the Westphalian Order During WW I: Max Weber on the Timeliness of the European Polity", by Kari Palonen.

In addition to the articles, other material such as project updates, book reviews and the speech of Barbro Sundback from the symposium to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Institute, was also published in the journal.

Elias Vartio, Research Coordinator

E-course on Territorial Autonomy and Åland

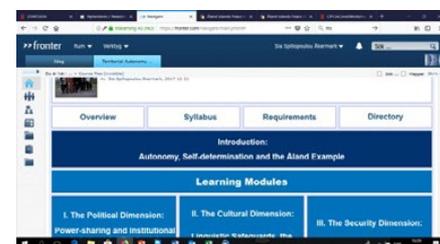
The English-language e-course on territorial autonomies, "Territorial Autonomy as a Tool for Diversity Management: Lessons from the Åland Example" ran for the third time during the autumn term of 2017.

The number of course participants has risen steadily during the first three years. In 2017 a total of 17 participants from eight different countries were enrolled in the course.

The aim of the course is to provide the students with a broad platform of knowledge to discuss territorial autonomies from several perspectives, with the Åland Example and its components as a starting point. The course was also

this year given in cooperation with the Open University on Åland. The purpose of the course is to increase the knowledge about and interest for territorial solutions and the Åland Example as well as to pass on the research results of the Institute and others.

The course, which is conducted in English, consists of five modules and discusses autonomy in relation to among other themes self-determination,



minority rights and identity, regional integration and conflict resolution. Also the relationship between autonomy and the demilitarisation and neutralisation of Åland is presented and discussed interactively during the course.

Sia Spilioupoulou Åkermark, Head of Research

Finland's centenary, boundaries and boundlessness discussed at Kastelholm

Kastelholm peace talks 2017 were held under the theme "Finland as a neighbour – boundaries and boundlessness over the past century". The talks formed a part of the centenary celebration of Finland.



The event started with a panel discussion in the castle of Kastelholm with four invited speakers, including former Finnish Minister and High Commissioner Astrid Thors, former Swedish Minister Kristina Persson, former Ambassador René Nyberg and Norwegian peace researcher Professor Nils Petter Gleditsch. The debate was moderated by Professor Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

Nordquist initiated the discussion by asking the speakers what they would congratulate Finland for and what they think holds Finland together. An aspect that was particularly applauded was the high trust towards institutions, which was seen as one of the crucial aspects of success. The speakers also shared their assessments and experiences from the Cold War era, whereby Finland's active role and the 1975 Helsinki Accords were underlined. The legacy of this meeting, the

OSCE, was still considered utterly important in its role in solving conflicts and being one of the upholders of multilateralism in today's Europe.

The debate also touched upon the role of Åland, which was similarly seen to involve both positive and challenging aspects. Kristina Persson pointed out that the smaller the society the more it is dependent on others, but as a counterbalance, smaller societies can better involve people. Astrid Thors considered that Ålanders today know Finland to a lesser extent than they did 30 years ago, and urged them to get to know Finland better. René Nyberg, in contrast, was worried about the status of the Swedish language in Finland, with yet another Prime Minister who does not speak Swedish. Nils Petter Gleditsch hoped that Åland could serve as a model for territorial disputes in the world, with its autonomy, minority rights and demilitarisation.

After discussions in the castle, a

roundtable discussion at the nearby restaurant Smakbyn followed. In addition to the panel from the castle, three new speakers participated: Anna Abrahamsson, the Secretary General of Svensk Ungdom (Youth Organisation of the Swedish People's Party in Finland), Natalia Jerofejeva, a language pedagogue in Åland with a Russian background, and Janne Holmén, an Ålandic historian. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Research Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institut, moderated the discussions. She asked the speakers to share their thoughts about the theme of "neighbourness", after which the panel from the castle and the audience could participate in the discussion.

*Susann Simolin, Project Manager
for the Kastelholm Talks*

North Korea, Nuclear Weapons and Trump on the menu for this year's lunch seminars

During 2017 a total of six open lunch seminars were held in the restaurant of hotel Arkipelag, where researchers and experts lectured on among other topics the Swedish language in Finland, the UN Anti-Nuclear Weapons Treaty and the U.S.A. under Donald Trump, before an audience of 30-70 persons.

Åland 1944-1946 - reunification with the Motherland?

Around 70 persons participated in the first seminar of the year, which was held on January 31, on the topic of "Åland 1944-46 – reunification with the Motherland?". The lecturer, Kenneth Gustavsson, is antiquarian, PhD in archeology and Associate Professor of history and is a member of the Board of the Institute. The lecture, which was based on new material discovered in archives, dealt with how the leadership of the Åland Islands, in the shadow of the Finnish-Soviet armistice in 1944, again pursued reunification with Sweden.

A New Cold War?

On May 2, the researcher Mikael Wigell spoke under the heading "A New Cold War? Power Politics in the 21st Century". Mikael Wigell lectured about the new power politics and described the changed character of power politics, the consequences of this for international law and order, as well as the strategic alternatives Europe has in this new context. Mikael Wigell is Senior Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and a member of the Institute's Research Council.



What is happening with the Swedish language in Finland?

On April 19, Lia Markelin from the think tank Magma discussed the situation of the Swedish language in Finland. A lot is happening in the world and in Finland that affects the situation of the Swedish language in the country. The think tank Magma has during eight years followed the development and has brought important topics for the Swedish speaking Finland up to discussion. Lia Markelin is Research Coordinator at Magma and member of the Board of the Åland Islands Peace Institute since 2015.

100 days with Trump

On Tuesday May 16, the Institute arranged a lunch seminar with the title "100 days with Trump" in hotel Arkipelag. The lecturer Olof Ehrenkrona, General Consul of Sweden on Åland, has closely followed the development in the US. In the seminar he told of Trump's first 100 days as president, and discussed what we can expect in the future. The seminar attracted a record audience, 80 persons came to listen and discuss.

North Korea behind the headlines

Katja Creutz, PhD in Law, spoke on October 30 about "North Korea behind the headlines", with focus on human rights and security politics. Katja Creutz is Senior Researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki and affiliated researcher at the Eric Castrén Institute of Helsinki University. The Finnish Institute of International Affairs has recently published a report on North Korea, to which Katja Creutz has contributed the text "Human Rights in the Shadow of Arms Control".

UN, the Nordic Region and the struggle against Nuclear Weapons

On December 4, Tarja Cronberg spoke on "The UN, the Nordic Region and the struggle against Nuclear Weapons". At the seminar the new UN Nuclear Prohibition Agreement, the consequences it can have and the attitudes of the Nordic countries to the question were discussed. Tarja Cronberg, PhD in technology and economy, is associated with the Swedish Peace Research Institute SIPRI and former Director of the Danish equivalent. She has been a member of the Finnish Parliament, Minister in the Finnish Government, member of the European Parliament and of the Nordic Council. Tarja Cronberg is also chairperson of the Peace Union of Finland, to which the Åland Islands Peace Institute belongs. The Peace Union of Finland is in turn a member of the ICAN network that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize of 2017.

The future in focus at 25th anniversary

In October, the Åland Islands Peace Institute celebrated its 25th anniversary with a symposium at Alandica in Mariehamn. At the same time, the achievements of former Chair of the Board of Directors, Ms Barbro Sundback, were highlighted. The theme of the symposium was “Åland – a future perspective”.

The symposium began with a video greeting from the Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström, in which she and the Swedish Government congratulated the Peace Institute for its 25 years in the service of peace.

The first speaker was Jan Sundberg, professor of Political Science at the University of Helsinki. He talked about liberal democracies and partial sovereignty. Sundberg identified a number of threat scenarios that slowly become part of the new normality: Right-wing extremism and negative nationalism and the retreat of established democracies. He also discussed their consequences for minority protection. According to him, the idea of the liberal state based on the rule of law rests on two pillars: on the one hand, parliamentarism, and on the other, the principle of rule of law with human rights in the foreground. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Head of Research of the Peace Institute, added a third pillar to Sundberg's speech: the potential for economic development and a positive welfare system.

Hedda Langemyr, former Director of the Norwegian Peace Council, shared with the audience the historical journey of Norway's defence strategy and peace movement from World War II until today. Langemyr also touched upon Norway's and Sweden's relationship with other states and, in particular, with Russia. She pointed out that one ought to imagine how the strategic deployment of NATO forces in Norway and soldiers on Gotland may be perceived from the opposite side, however, to understand is not the same as to accept.

Gunilla Herolf, Chair of the Research Council of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, agreed with Langemyr but supplemented that “clarity is respected - even by Russia.” It is therefore important to be clear with what you stand for - the rule of law and its principles; that agreement shall be complied and that each state itself has the right to decide its institutional belonging.

From the morning's international outlook we turned with Christian Pleijel's words to home, Åland. Pleijel, Director Sustainable Urban Systems at KTH in Stockholm, talked about how we create common, talked-through future scenarios that reduce the risk of conflict. Pleijel pointed out that we are living in a time of changes of the second order, that is to say, revolutionary changes that throw the entire system over the tip.

Susann Simolin, Head of Information at the Peace Institute, commented on Pleijel's futuristic thoughts and stressed that the reference frames of the future are probably not the same as those of today and asked what assumptions, units, identities will exist in the future.

Barbro Sundback talked about how the Ålandic identity changed from Julius Sundblom's original reunification prospect to a self-governing population. During the 1980s, Åland became an international symbol for peace movement and from that wave, the Peace Institute was born. Sundback concluded that Åland with its special



Photos: Elias Vartio

conditions should give the concept of peace a renaissance and the Islands of Peace should consciously and purposefully live up to his epithet that is not old-fashioned but rather more relevant than ever. Roger Nordlund, newly elected Chair of the Board of Directors, commented on Sundback's intervention and thereby closed the seminar.

Petra Granholm, Research Developer

Seminar about Åland as an Example to staff members of Embassies in Helsinki

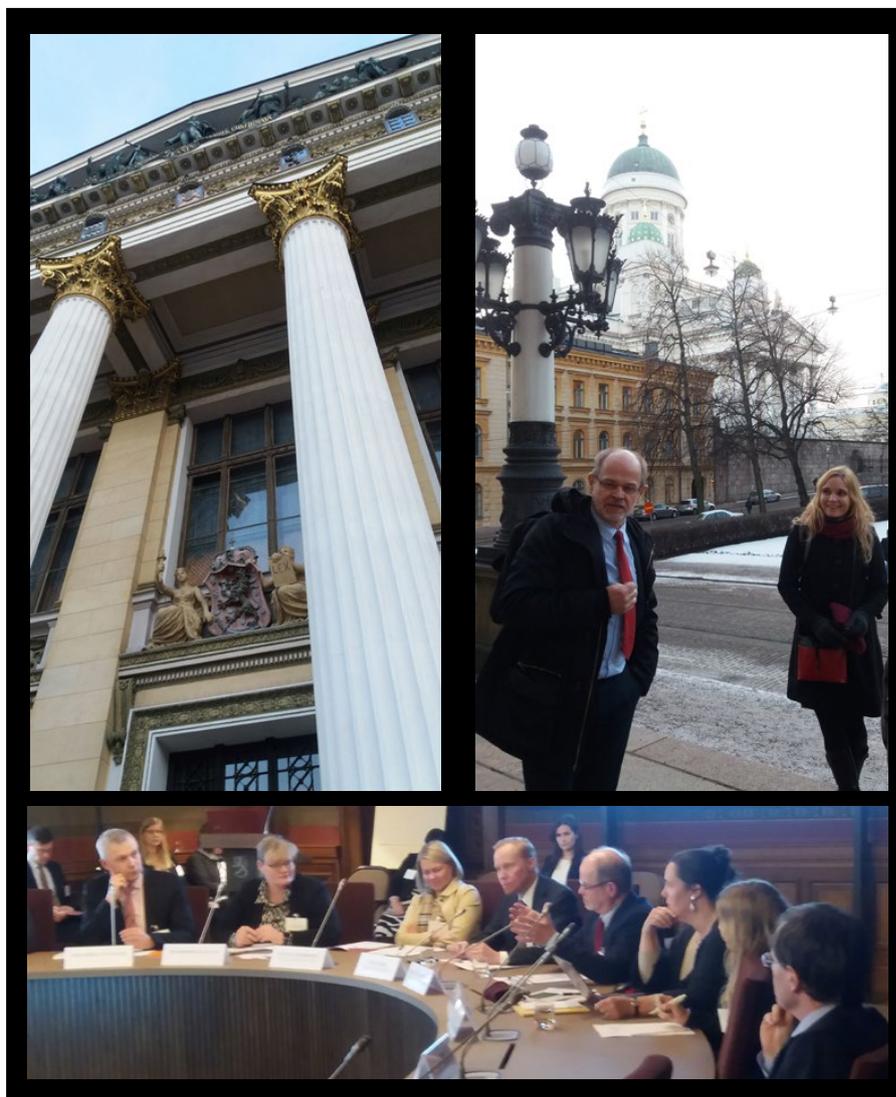
On February 9, the Contact Group between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the Government of Åland, arranged a seminar in Helsinki. The topic of the seminar was: "Åland as an Example: Perspectives on Conflict Resolution and Security Cooperation."

The invited guests were primarily ambassadors and other employees at the different delegations in Helsinki as well as senior civil servants from both Finland and Åland. The Åland Islands Peace Institute contributed three speakers, Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Sia Spilipoulou Åkermark and Saila Heinikoski.

Kjell-Åke Nordquist talked under the heading "Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution in a Security Policy Perspective" and reflected around Åland in a broader context of security policy and conflict resolution.

Spiliopoulou Åkermark's presentation bore the title of "Interacting Components: Self-government, Demilitarisation and Minority Accomodation" and the basic argumentation was that these constituents met the different actors needs and accomplished a triple compromise on political power distribution, security aspects as well as language and culture conservation in the light of the Finnish bilingualism.

Saila Heinikoski, PhD student and researcher in the project "Åland's demilitarisation in a world of in-



creased militarisation" spoke under the heading "Finland and Åland in the European Security Context". Heinikoski reflected on how security can be a driving force for regionalisation, as for example in the case of the EU, but also how regionalisation can occur without

security taking a prominent place on the agenda, as in the case of the Nordic cooperation.

*Susann Simolin,
Head of Information*

BREAKFAST DISCUSSION: On Wednesday 22 of February the Åland Islands Peace Institute organized in cooperation with the Nordic Institute on Åland (NIPÅ) a breakfast discussion about borders and boundlessness, in relation to the art exhibition gränslös.gif. The exhibition was displayed in Gallery NIPÅ in the spring. Ten creators from Åland, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Estonia, in the ages 13 - 41 had interpreted and examined the theme of borders and boundlessness, presented in gif-format. The speakers of the breakfast discussion were professor and Acting Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, Kjell-Åke Nordquist; PhD researcher at the University of Turku Saila Heinikoski; artist Minna Öberg; registered psychologist and psychotherapist Sonja Dolke, along with the Director of NIPÅ Jacob Mangwana Haagendal. The moderator was the Research Coordinator Elias Vartio.

Knowledge dissemination and exchange

The Peace Institute receives diplomats, journalists, researchers, activists and civil servants every year from different parts of the world, who want to know more about the Åland example and the Institute's activities.

Diplomats who are on official visits in Åland often take the chance to meet the Peace Institute's researchers and staff.

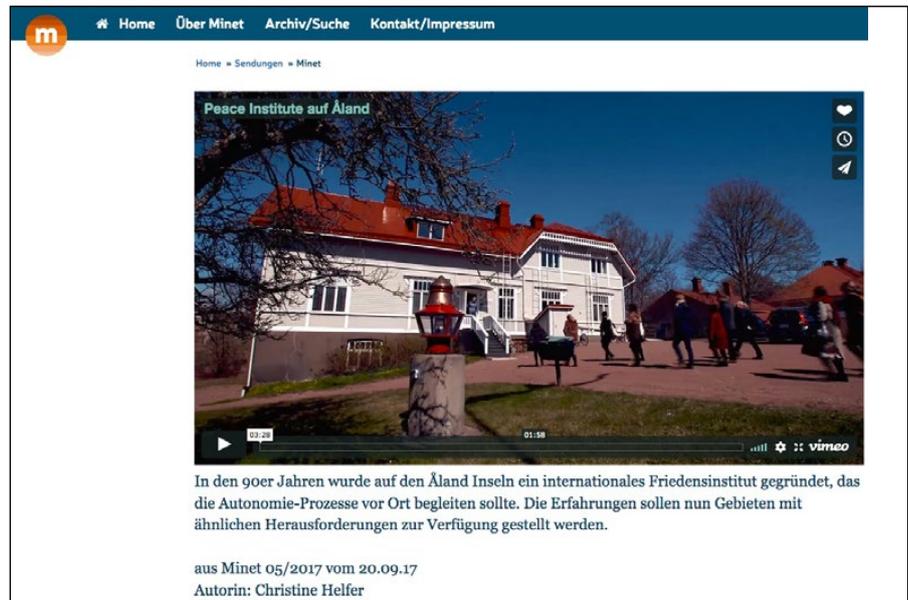
In 2017 the institute met the Ambassador of Romania in Finland, Razvan Rotundu, the Ambassador of Hungary in Finland, Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky and the Ambassador of Switzerland in Finland, Heinrich Maurer, at their respective visits to Åland.

During the year, the Institute also has received visits of researchers who wanted to exchange thoughts on specific topics. In March, for instance, the Peace Institute received Ida Hughes Tidlund, a PhD student in ethnology at Stockholm University who writes her dissertation about the Ålandic borders. In November, Jörn Dosch of Rostock University, who researches how "old minorities" are affected by the occurrence of "new minorities", mainly in South Tyrol, on Åland and Germany, visited the Peace Institute for a few days.

Youth organizations and students are welcome to the Peace Institute on study visits. During the year, the Institute received an international group of young people, gathered on the initiative of the Alliance, a branch organization for youth work and youth organizations in Finland. The visitors worked with topic youth, peace and security (UN Security Council Resolution 2250). Also, a class of students enrolled in social sciences related courses at one of the upper secondary Schools on Åland came to pay a visit.

A group of young peace activists from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh came to Åland on study visits conducted by Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) within the framework for an EU partnership. The Peace Institute held an interactive workshop about the genesis of the Ålandic solution and the Åland Example.

The Peace Institute has also received civil servants who work with questions within the Institute's research areas. When the civil servants on Ålandic Affairs that work in the ministries in Finland visited Åland, they paid a short visit to the Peace Institute. Other



Above: The researcher Jörn Dosch of University of Rostock (third from the right) visited the Peace Institute when the intern Sin Ngor Sek held a presentation about the meaning of autonomy in China. Photo below: After a short visit of a tv-team from South Tyrol that focuses on minority issues, have published several broadcasts of Åland in German in their online platform minet-tv.

meetings have been held with Lennart Rohdin, the Swedish government's investigator for two report on minority issues, and Julia Lindholm, who works at Finland's Permanent Representation to the EU as senior specialist of Ålandic issues.

On two occasions journalists interested in minority issues have visited the Peace Institute to conduct interviews and reports. Jens Nygaard, journalist at the newspaper Flensborg Avis,

that is focused on the Danish minority in Germany, visited the Institute to do a report on the Åland Autonomy and what it means to the society and the business sector. Journalist Christine Helfer, based in South Tyrol, Italy, visited the Åland Islands Peace Institute and did a short program in German for minet-tv.

*Susann Simolin,
Head of Information*

25 cases to the Mediation Office

Mediation is a complimentary and statutory service. Through mediation, the parties in a criminal case or dispute are given the opportunity to own their conflict and find a solution through constructive discussions facilitated by educated and impartial voluntary mediators. In 2017, 25 cases were brought to the Åland Mediation Office.

Since autumn 2006, the Åland Mediation Office has offered mediation between parties in case of a crime and in certain disputes, based on national legislation on mediation. From 1.1.2016, the responsibility for arranging mediation services has been transferred from the regional administrations to the Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) with which the Åland Islands Peace Institute has signed an agreement to function as a mediation service provider.



The purpose of the mediation activities is to offer the parties in cases of crime or in certain disputes an opportunity to gain an understanding of the background and consequences of the situation, as well as to create the conditions for taking responsibility and reaching reconciliation. The Mediation Office has a network of around twenty trained voluntary mediators who act as impartial discussion leaders at mediation meetings. The aim is that the mediation should provide long-term results by preventing repeated crime and

breaking a developing crime spiral, especially among young people. The Office is led by a Mediation Officer who works part-time.

In 2017, a total of 25 cases arrived at the Åland Mediation Office. Most initiatives for mediation were taken by the police authority in Åland. Among the crimes there are thirteen cases of physical abuse and mild physical abuse, five cases of unlawful threats, two cases of shop-lifting, two cases of violation of domicile and two cases of vandalism. Two cases were about civil litigation.

*Heidi Öst,
Substitute Mediation Officer*

Finland 100-seminar

On November 8, a seminar was held with the headline "What has it meant for Åland to be an autonomous region of Finland? Ups and downs during 100 years". The Åland University of Applied Sciences arranged the seminar and the ÅIPI was the co-organizer. The seminar was part of the Government of Åland's attention to Finland's 100th anniversary. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark from the ÅIPI (the picture to the right) was one of the speakers.



Jury in Peace Institute's Poster Contest

For the third consecutive year, the ÅIPI set up as a jury to elect the Lions international peace poster. The theme for this year was "the future of peace". On the picture to the left shows Justina Donielaite one of the artworks for the jury members and Herbert Karlsson from Lions Club Mariehamn r.f. rightmost.



Festivities of the Autonomy Day

On Åland's Autonomy Day, June 9th, the ÅIPI lent "living books" and invited people to Ålandspannkaka on the square in Mariehamn.

The Financial Situation

The core funding the Åland Islands Peace Institute receives from the Government of Åland, has in recent years provided stability to the Institute's basic functions. It has thereby been able to proceed and apply for additional funds for research and educational inputs through different types of projects and initiatives.

During 2017 there was a good balance between income and expenses and generally a sensible control of economic activity.

During 2017 the income from specific projects was 76 016 €. The income from administration services was 30 737 €. While the costs for the specific projects ended up at 82 643 €, the costs for administration were 193 595 €, the total costs for this year was 276 238 euro.

The Peace Institute had support from public sources amounting to 201 690 euro which resulted in a positive balance of 32 205 euro for the year of 2017.

Some of the Institute's annual recurring endeavours have also received funding, for example the international course on the Åland Example, as well as the Kastelholm talks. The Institute has also had in 2017 a significant operational support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. Finally, the foundation has not given any loans or collateral to the persons affiliated to the institute or undertaken any such transactions that is referred to in the Foundations Act. The Foundation has also not paid allowances to the Board members.

Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Acting Director



Renovated!

A thorough renovation of the Institute's premises, which the ÅIPI's property company Fredsfast AB initiated in 2017, has given a long-awaited and much needed stimulus for daily work, for pleasure both for staff and temporary visitors.

The Ålands Islands Peace Institute's wholly owned subsidiary firm, Fredsfast AB, has completed the planned maintenance activities during this year.

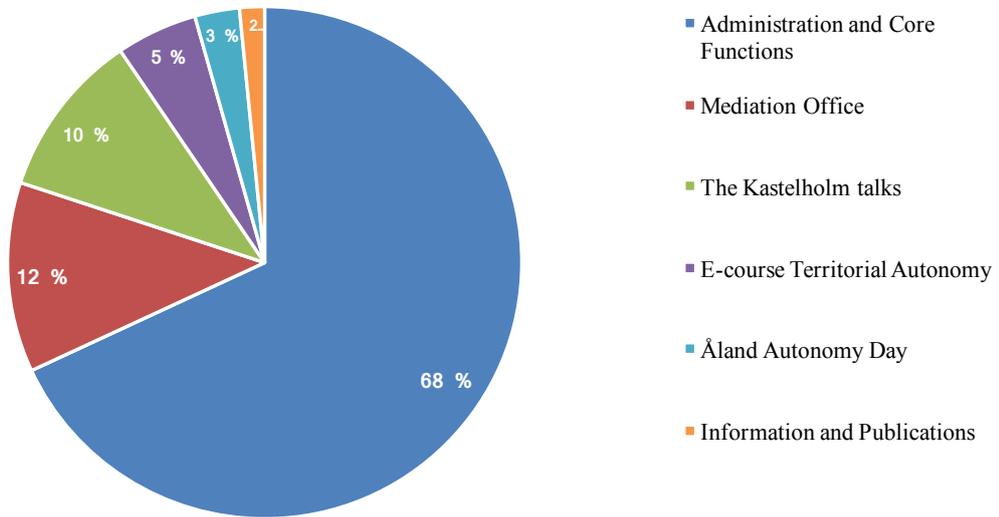
An extensive renovation has been carried out in the Åland Islands Peace Institute's common rooms, including a restoration of the kitchen and wet rooms and a general refurbishing of the offices. The renovation has also included the clear-up of old cast iron pipes in the plumbing system.

During this year, two premises have new tenants. The Board of Fredsfast AB has been composed of Chairman and CEO of the company Roger Jansson, Barbro Sundback and Brother Myllykoski. Erika Sjölund has been the company's auditor.

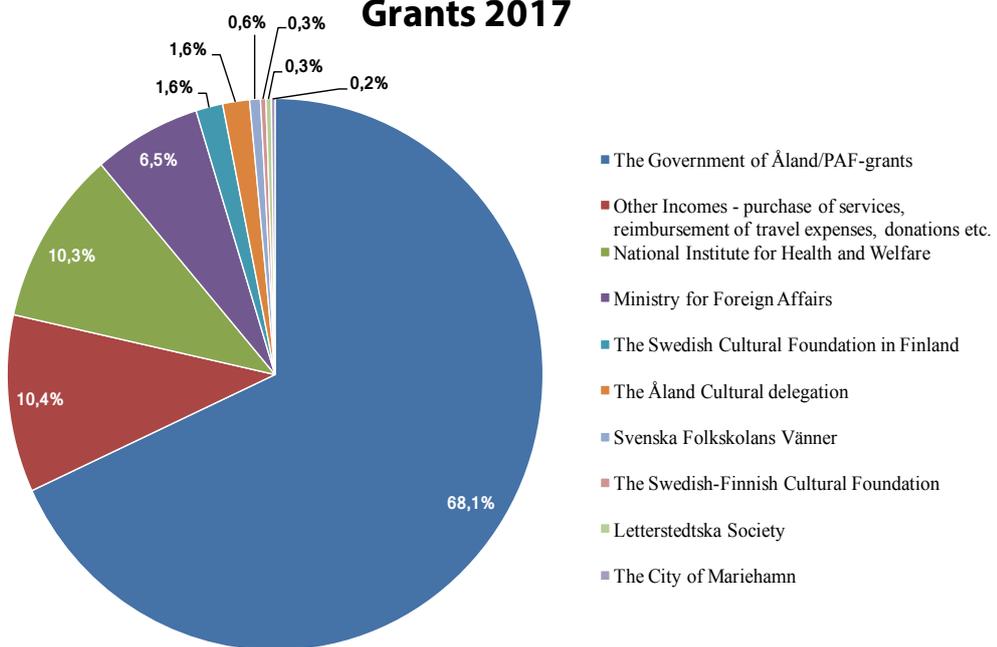
The Annual General Meeting was held at the Åland Islands Peace Institute 19.4.2017.

Bror Myllykoski, Real Estate Officer

Expenses 2017



Grants 2017



Staff and Interns

The staffing during 2017 has been stable. Like the previous year, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has been on leave from her position Director to take the post as Head of Research and has been deputised by Kjell-Åke Nordquist. Justina Donielaite was on parental leave from her post as Organizational Secretary from January to October, and was deputised by Tina Sjövall. Justina is also Mediator Officer and was on leave throughout the year from this post too. The vacancy was occupied by Heidi Öst. In the end of the year, Petra Granholm was hired as Research Developer.

Staff 2017:

Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Acting Director
Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, on leave from her position as Director to work as Head of Research
Susann Simolin, Head of Information and Deputy Director
Elias Vartio, Research Coordinator
Justina Donielaite, Organisation Secretary (November-December)
Mediation Officer (on parental leave)
Jonny Andersen, IT-coordinator, Economist
Heidi Öst, substitute Mediation Officer (January-March, July-December)
Ulf-Peter Westmark, substitute Mediation Officer (April-June)
Tina Sjövall, substitute Organisation Secretary (January-October)
Petra Granholm, Research Developer (October-December)
Bror Myllykoski, Real Estate Officer
John Knight, Librarian
Johanna Eker, Cleaner



Photo: Filip Holiencin

Almost the whole staff together. From left: Mirna Aho, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Jonny Andersen, Petra Granholm, Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Heidi Öst, Elias Vartio, Susann Simolin, Sin Ngor Sek, Justina Donielaite and Tina Sjövall.

Interns 2017

During the year, the Peace Institute has had five interns. Vanessa Westerlund undertook her internship in spring, and mainly participated in the arrangements of the "Kastelholm talks", she is majoring in political science at Åbo Akademi University with Political Science and International Public Law.

Nicklas Böhm did his intership during three months in spring, Nicklas has acquired a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Roskilde University and will be majoring in Conflict and Security studies at the University of Kent this fall.



Celina



Vanessa



Sin Ngor



Nicklas



Mirna

Sumia "Celina" Alshareef, who moved to Åland from Aleppo (Syria), did an internship in the ÅIPI during one month, as a part of her studies in Swedish at Medis. Celina has studied International Relations and Diplomacy at Damascus University in Syria and has volunteered to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

During fall, the Peace Institute had two interns. Mirna Aho mainly participated in the arrangements of the Åland Islands Peace Institute 25th anniversary. Mirna is majoring in Speech Communication at the university of Jyväskylä. She has also studied European Studies and Swedish.

The other intern, Sin Ngor Sek, worked with research summaries during fall. He has previously studied Law in Hong Kong and he is majoring in International and Comparative Law at the University of Helsinki.

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The Peace Fund

The Åland Islands Peace Fund was established by the Åland Islands Peace Institute with the purpose of supporting work for peace. As the peace fund grows the interest accrued can be awarded for purposes decided by the Board. The peace fund can also be used for special purposes, for example, condolences. Payments can be made to:

Ålandsbanken 660100-12 09 154
IBAN: FI22 6601 0001 2091 54
BIC: AABAFI22

Nordea 203218 -22 564
IBAN: FI70 2032 1800 0225 64
BIC: NDEAFIHH

Donations can also be made through www.peace.ax. Donation cards are available in banks and at undertakers on Åland.

Newsletters

The Åland Islands Peace Institute sends electronic newsletters to subscribers 4-5 times a year. To subscribe, please register at www.peace.ax.

Publications

The "Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute" series, working papers and selected additional publications, can be downloaded in pdf, free of charge at www.peace.ax. The articles published in the e-journal Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies can be downloaded free of charge from www.jass.ax. Other publications can be ordered from books@peace.ax. Pricelist available on www.peace.ax.

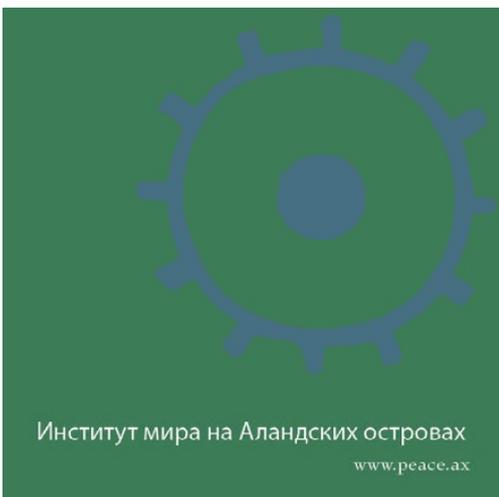
Visits

Every year, the Peace Institute meets with groups or individual politicians, officials, NGOs, journalists etc. with an interest in the international relevance of the Åland Example. The core concept for the introductions includes a presentation of the Åland Example, its history, components and lessons learned as well as the role and the agenda of the Peace Institute. These complimentary presentations last for approximately one hour including discussion, and are offered in Swedish or English, free of charge. Longer or more specialised presentations can also be arranged for an agreed fee.

Library

The Åland Islands Peace Institute's library is specialised in peace and conflict issues, with a focus on minorities, autonomy, security and gender issues. The library of the Peace Institute is included within the Åland library database found at www.bibliotek.ax. Items can be borrowed at the Peace Institute with a valid Åland library card and returned to any library on Åland.

During 2016, an updated version of the Peace Institute's leaflet was printed in Swedish and Russian.



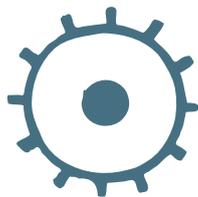


Photo from the Kastelholm Talks, photographer Filip Holiencin

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