Research project:

Demilitarisation in an increasingly militarised world. International perspectives in a multilevel regulatory framework – the case of the Åland Islands

How is the demilitarisation and neutralisation regime of the Åland Islands affected by the many, new and varying modes of military-civilian cooperation in the Baltic Sea?

In order to answer this core research question the project researchers look at the following issues:

- The effects of modern technology;
- The fusion of civil and military aspects in international relations and activities;
- Proliferating forms of military-civilian cooperation, often non-formalised and non-treaty based;
- The Åland demilitarisation in comparison with e.g. the Svalbard treaty and the Antarctic treaty, but also other similar regimes.

The project makes a contribution to knowledge not only through the empirical examination of a selected case study – the Åland Islands demilitarisation – but also at a broader theoretical and practical level on a wide range of contemporary challenges, in particular problems of the evolving understandings about drawing the line between what is military and what is civilian; the interaction between national and international regulatory frameworks in the field of national security and military cooperation; new forms of international cooperation beyond international treaties and organisations *strictu senso*; conditions for a possible usefulness, or not, of demilitarisation in other parts of the world, in particular in the Arctic region.

The research project is a co-operation between the Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) and The University of Lapland and its Arctic Center in Rovaniemi (Finland). Four researchers participate in the project: **Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark** (docent and leader of the project), **Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen** (jur. dr., post-doc), **Timo Koivurova** (research professor, director at the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law and acting director of the Arctic Center), researcher **Saila Heinikoski** (PhD candidate, international relations), as well as research assistant **Filip Holiencin** (international law).

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark focuses on airspace and new modes of military-civilian cooperation; Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen focuses the on law of the sea and the Proliferation

Security Initiative (PSI); Timo Koivurova works on the comparative aspects of the project with the assistance of Filip Holiencin; Saila Heinikoski examines the discussions in Finland and the EU on demilitarisation and neutralisation. Yannick Poullie examined in 2015 the discussions in the Finnish and Åland Parliaments on the demilitarisation and neutralisation in the early 1990s (forthcoming article. For a blog see: http://www.peace.ax/en/bloggen).

The **scientific advisors** of the project are: *Matthieu Chillaud*, PhD., France/Estonia, affiliated to the University of Tartu, Estonia (international relations, security in the Baltic area); *Lauri Hannikainen*, professor Emeritus, University of Turku (law and international studies, Åland studies); *Kenneth Gustavsson*, docent, Åland Museum (history); *Päivi Kaukoranta*, Director General Legal Affairs, Finnish MFA; *Said Mahmoudi*, professor, Stockholm University (law of the sea); *Allan Rosas*, professor, Judge at the EU Court of Justice (demilitarisation, international law, EU-law); *Gregory Simons*, PhD, docent / associate professor (New Zealand/Sweden), Uppsala Center for Russian Studies (security sector, Baltic Sea, Russian studies); *Geir Ulfstein*, Professor, University of Oslo, Norway (Law, environmental studies, Svalbard); *Willy Østreng*, director, former vice-president Norwegian Academy of Polar Research (political science, Arctic issues).

Project funded by the KONE foundation (2015-2017).

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