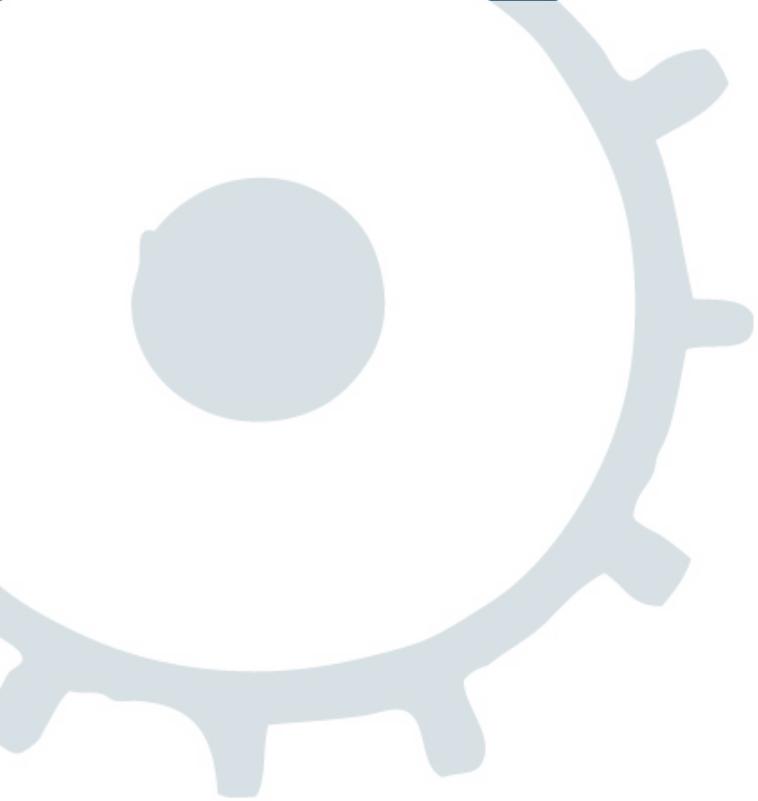


ÅLANDS FRED SINSTITUT

Annual Report 2020





2020 - A Year We Will Remember

At the beginning of February, I attended the opening of Finland's Riksdag in the capacity of Speaker of the Parliament. During the opening service in the cathedral I sat next to the head of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Matti Anttonen, and we talked about the new coronavirus that had started spreading throughout the world. He said that the world had failed to learn from previous epidemics, but this time things may be different. I think that neither he nor I understood at the time what was truly in front of us and how right he would turn out to be.

The pandemic, which we are still living with, imprinted itself, by and large, on everything that happened in the world during 2020, in large and small ways. Too many have been infected with Covid-19 and far too many have died from it. When this were written, vaccinations have begun and there is hope that when summer comes we shall return to a new normal life.

The Åland Peace Institute's operating environment has changed during the year and the business has become more digital. The staff at the Peace Institute, in a highly creative, committed and competent way, successfully created the framework for digital implementation of all the activities that had been planned. The biggest challenge was the Kastelholm Talks on "War, Peace and the Environment" with Margot Wallström as keynote speaker together with several experienced participants. The move to a more digital Kastelholm Talk was a great success, and in the long run will lead to further development that will ensure the inclusion of speakers and participants from the global arena.

The Peace Institute's board meetings, a lunch seminar and a number of thematic seminars have also been conducted digitally. Most likely all of us long for a return to physical meetings, but at the same time it is undeniable that the pandemic's influence on

the Peace Institute's way of working will be lasting in certain ways, just as it will be for many other organisations. The pandemic has made digitalisation take a giant step forward and the big winner in that context will likely be the Environment.

The pandemic has exposed many weaknesses in the international community. When cooperation would most be needed, national interests have instead been allowed to prevail. Even Nordic cooperation appeared to be almost non-existent at the outset of the pandemic. All Nordic countries chose their own strategies to prevent and reduce the spread of infection. Throughout my life the boundaries between the Nordic countries have just been a line drawn on a map and nothing that anyone would actually think about. For us on Åland who live in parallel to two countries, constitutionally and administratively in Finland yet popularly/linguistically/culturally in Sweden. The situation with hard borders has far-reaching consequences, both in the economic and popular realm. This will consequently provide space for many future research projects. How did it turn out like this between neighbouring countries and what can we do better for the future?

I have long dreamt that when Åland celebrates the 100 year anniversary of its autonomy, the UN would recognise our celebration by broadening the scope of the Peace Institute within the UN. Currently, the Peace Institute has consultative status within the UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC. Making the Peace Institute an official component of the UN would act as an important reminder of the peaceful resolution to the Åland issue that was achieved by the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations. This action would increase awareness of the Åland Example and thereby be an inspiration for peaceful resolutions to similar situations. The world now needs, more than ever, good examples.

Roger Nordlund, Chairman



Ålands fredsinstitut
1 trappa upp



A Year of Worries, Adaptation and Gratitude

Unpredictability made itself felt at the beginning of the year and took the form of a small virus that looks quite beautiful under a microscope yet is deadly to many people. The year 2020 will be remembered as the year of the pandemic and the year of absence.

What does this pandemic year mean for the Åland Peace Institute? What was highlighted in last year's report, namely the importance of long-term collaborations, was put to the test. Thanks to strong and versatile collaborations, the Peace Institute has been able to adapt quickly to the circumstances. The transition of the Kastelholm Talks 2020 from an in-person to a fully digital event was made in just two weeks, thanks not only to the generosity and hard work of the Peace Institute's personnel, but our partners, invited speakers, and financiers. When many people have the will, they find the power to make it happen. The Talks' digital conversations have reached entirely new audiences from outside of Åland by having much of the work now documented on the Peace Institute's YouTube channel.

I look back on the year 2020 with mixed feelings. On the one hand, we have been able to publish two new important reports in the Peace Institute's report series, and we have been involved in arranging or participating in several relevant seminars and discussions. We held a seminar in collaboration with the Network for Sustainable Knowledge Development on Åland (KUT network) on the importance of knowledge and research for regions; a report on the international use of the Åland Example; and an investigation

into what EU membership has meant for Åland over the past 25 years I am particularly pleased with the formation of a new Democracy Network 21, which was launched at the end of the year in a joint initiative between the Chydenius Foundation, Hanaholmen, Lund University, and the Åland Peace Institute.

On the other hand, there have been many concerns about staff health, practical arrangements in connection with events, the implementation of research projects based on collaborations and talks, and about the economy. There is also concern about signs of growing nationalist movements in several quarters, and of temperamental and aggressive superpowers that continue to arm themselves militarily, questioning the agreed rules of international law. And as we see all too well, minorities are vulnerable in such circumstances.

2020 has also been the year of loss: the loss of smiles without a mask, of simple touches and intimate conversations, of concerts and theatre, of visits with relatives, friends and colleagues, and of the opportunity to see new places and meet new people. But ultimately, 2020 has been the year of gratitude: we live, we get to do our jobs in new ways, each of us is important, and we care about peace, not only around Åland, but also further afield. Everything is connected and we can not afford to give up. Peace is perishable and must be recreated every day.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark
Director



Board of Directors

Roger Nordlund, Chair of the Board. Member of Åland Parliament, former Head of Government, Vice Head of Government, and Minister of Finance in the Åland Government, and former Speaker of the Åland Parliament.

Katarina Fellman, Vice Chair. Director at Statistics and Research Åland, ÅSUB.

Nina Fellman. Member of Åland Parliament and former minister in the Åland Government, former editor-in-chief of the Nya Åland newspaper.

Marcus Koskinen-Hagman, Ph.D. in theology and religious studies, Headmaster of Åland's Lyceum.

Anders Lidén. Ambassador and former Senior Official at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, former Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations in New York.

Göran Lindholm. Lawyer, former CEO of Åland's Mutual Insurance Company.

Lia Markelin. Ph.D. Social Analyst at the Magma think tank in Helsinki.

Hanna Ojanen. Jean Monnet professor at the University of Tampere and associate professor of international politics at the University of Helsinki.

Ville Valve. Member of Åland Parliament and chairman of the Åland delegation to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, BSPC. Former Special Advisor to the European Parliament.

Wille Valve is New to the board

At the Annual General Meeting in April, Wille Valve was elected to the board of the Åland Peace Institute. But he is not completely new, rather he has returned. Valve did his university internship at the Peace Institute and has also been a mediation officer with the Mediation Office.

The parliament's café is almost completely empty. On the table sits a used coffee mug. Wille Valve is already comfortably seated.

– It feels good! I was very happy when I had the opportunity to join the Peace Institute's Board and focus on issues that I think are very important. Investing in specialised knowledge is just right and good for Åland.

Out online and into the world

Wille perceives the Peace Institute as a mobile and open organisation with great knowledge and an interest to constantly evolve. He says that it is good that such a spirit exists. During the past year, he closely followed how the Peace Institute digitalised its activities more and more - reaching out online and into the world.

Navigate true

As a board member, he hopes to be able to contribute via his contacts and networks. The telephone is his most important tool in his job as a Member of Parliament, and he thinks that in these times it is extra important to try to maintain our relationships in some way even though you can not always be seen physically.

– Otherwise, above all, I offer two principal strengths: my interest in people, and my belief in collaborations between countries and regions. In these areas I want to help. I also ask myself the following two questions: Where are we? and Where do we stand? And that is where, I think, it is important to go in the right direction, so we can present our message of peace both with credibility and sincerity.



Members of the Research Council

Gunilla Herolf, Chairman. Ph.D., expert on European integration and security policy issues.

Kjell-Åke Nordquist, professor of International Relations.

Mikael Wigell, adjunct professor and programme director of the Global Security Research Program at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Helsinki.

About the Peace Institute's Research

Research and knowledge development are among the Peace Institute's central areas of activity. Together with seminars, training, meetings, conversations, network contacts, publications and information, the research forms a whole that contributes to peaceful societal development and conflict prevention.

Research at Åland's Peace Institute is conducted both in-house and in collaboration with international networks of researchers and institutions.

The focus is on issues of self-government, minorities, and security, with Åland and its special status as a starting point. The Peace Institute provides knowledge and analysis as well as functions as a meeting place and arena for dialogue within its

areas of knowledge.

The Peace Institute's Research Council decides on the scientific focus and has a quality assurance function for the Peace Institute's research. During the year, the Research Council held two meetings.

The Peace Institute's Director, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, is the Research Council's secretary and the staff participates in the work when needed.

The Research Council reviews and guides the development of the electronic scientific journal Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies (JASS) and is active in the announcement and selection of the new guest research program Åland Peace Fellowship, which will be launched in 2021.

What We Have Researched in 2020

Research has been hampered by the pandemic, including in connection with library and archive visits, interviews, and seminars. In spite of that, we have accomplished a lot. Much has been done digitally: project development, supervision, and development and maintenance of researcher contacts.

A large portion of our research has been the investigation into Åland's first 25 years inside the European Union. The Åland Islands Peace Institute has been commissioned by the Åland government, in collaboration with ÅSUB, to investigate the significance of EU membership for Åland. This work was conducted throughout 2020 and will be completed in 2021.

The investigation consists of six sub-studies and includes both qualitative and quantitative aspects. The various sub-reports focus on selected areas of particular interest to Åland, such as participation and opportunities to influence, environmental issues, strategies of autonomous regions in relation to the EU, the drafting of new legislation within the bounds of EU law - and the importance of free movement for Åland.

Within the framework of the project, we have also arranged interactive digital work seminars for the seminar series "25 years in the EU - Åland experiences", where preliminary results are presented for each sub-study.

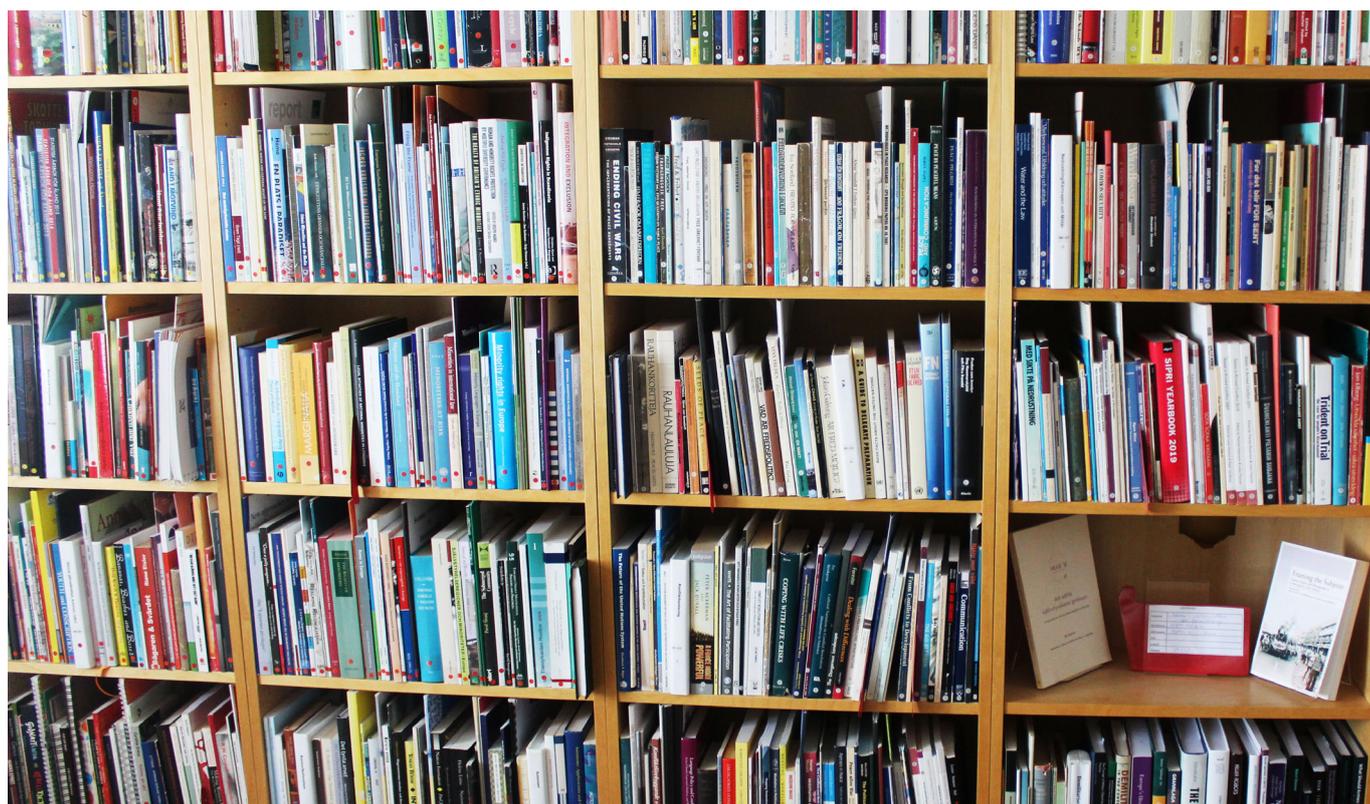
In December 2020, the report "The EU referendums on Åland: An overview of the EU debates in the Åland Parliament during autumn 1994" was published (Report no 2 - 2020). The report is written by Hasan Akintug, a doctoral student at the University of Helsinki and a former university intern at the Peace Institute. It provides a background to Åland's EU accession.

The Åland Example in conflict resolution

During the year, the Peace Institute's employee Susann Simolin published the final results of her research on the international use of the Åland Example. The report "The Åland Example in Use 1990-2019: Where, When, How, Why and by Whom?" (Report no 1 - 2020) describes 25 conflicts where the Åland Example has been utilised and analyzes in depth eight of these conflicts. The research was funded by the Åland Cultural Foundation and the Åland Parliament's Anniversary Fund.

Report on integration indicators

The report, "Mapping Integration Indicators - A Reference Tool for Mapping Ljubljana Guidelines-Based Policy" was developed during the year on behalf of the High Commission on National Minorities in the OSCE. The development of this report was a collaboration between the Director of the Åland Peace Institute, researchers at EURAC (Bolzano/Bozen) and the University of Heidelberg.



The Year in Brief

29.1 Visits. A diplomatic training group from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Kavaku training) visited the Peace Institute.

11.2 The network **bärkraft.ax co-actors**, meeting on democracy at the Swedish Consulate General. Petra Granholm participated.

5.3 Niklas Bremberg lectured at a lunch seminar on regional separatism and European integration, focusing on Catalonia and Scotland. Bremberg is a researcher at Uppsala University and at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in Stockholm.



The staff has a planning day

11.3 Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and information officer Susann Simolin visited the Swedish Parliament, where the Swedish-Åland Parliamentary Friends Association, led by its chairman MP Per Lodenius, organised a seminar on the use of the Åland Example in the world. Åland's Vice Head of Government Harry Jansson and Consul General Claes Hammar opened.

13.3 Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark lectured in Uppsala on "Indigenous rights and participation" for law students at Uppsala University.

19.3 Workshop on the Åland Example for students at Åland's Lyceum. The Peace Institute has developed a workshop for high school students on Åland's international position and the importance of the Åland Example for peace. The workshop was given both digitally and on site on several occasions throughout the year.

30.3 The Kastelholm Talks 2020 - Margot Wallström and Marja Lehto were the year's speakers. This year's theme was "War, Peace and the Environment".

21.4 At the Annual General Meeting, Wille Valve was elected to the board of the Åland Peace Institute.

29.4 The Director of the Åland Peace Institute, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, participated in a digital seminar at Accelerator on art and identity held at Stockholm University. The seminar went under the name "Art + Research: Soft Laws and Hard Reality" and was on mother tongue teaching and minority languages.

During the spring, **Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark had the opportunity to be a part-time guest researcher at the Department of Law**, Stockholm University, to collect material on the impact of EU law on autonomous regions.

27.5 The Director of the Peace Institute, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, participated in a discussion on minorities, territory and intergovernmental relations on a digital webinar hosted by EURAC. Sia discussed war rhetoric and centralisation trends within the ongoing pandemic. The other speakers were Francesco Palermo and Sergiu Constantin of EURAC Research.

9.6 Celebration of Åland's Autonomy Day. Susanne Simolin was awarded a monetary prize for her work.

10.6 Digital lunch seminar: "The Åland Example in international conflict resolution - when, where, how, who, why?" Speaker Susann Simolin, who in a research project, examined archive material and conducted interviews to find out in which conflicts the Åland Example has been used, who has been involved in the discussions, in which various ways the example has been used and whether it has led to any effects.

23.7 Visit by Arturas Razbadauskas, Ph.D., M.D., Rector of Klaipeda University.

27.8 Director of the Peace Institute Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark took part in the podcast Nordic Talks and discussed, among other things, the Åland Peace Institute's work, the Åland Example and peace. In addition to Sia, Arzu Abdullayeva (Azerbaijan) and Elçin Aktoprak (Turkey) also participated.

14.9 Internal digital seminar for OSCE/HCNM staff together with Roberta Medda (EURAC) concerning the Integration Indicators study.

15.9–23.9 Citizen conversations during the pandemic: How should Åland be developed? Organizer: Åland's government and the network bärkraft.ax. Petra Granholm participated as conversation leader.

23.9 **Researcher webinar** with Professor Jörn Dosch & EURAC.

24.9 **Seminar at Åland's Parliament** where Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Susann Simolin spoke about the Åland Example from, among other things, an international perspective.



Board meeting

13.10 **Seminar series “25 Years in the EU - Åland's Experiences”, part 1: “Mariehamn - Brussels - Helsinki. Voices and Relationships.”** Susann Simolin: How has EU membership affected Åland's opportunities for self-determination and democratic participation? Gustav Blomberg: What does Åland's presence in Brussels look like?

19.10–8.1.2021 **Territorial Autonomy as a Tool for Diversity Management - Lessons from the Åland Example**, online course.

22.10 **Symposium “Knowledge and Research Which Drive Regional Development and Innovation.”** Organizer: The Network for Sustainable Knowledge Development on Åland (KUT).

21.11 **Graduation of 17 new voluntary mediators who completed the Mediation and Restorative Justice course** during the autumn. Organizer: Åland's Mediation Office in collaboration with Västra Nyland's Mediation Office and the Open University of Åland University of Applied Sciences.

18.11 **Digital seminar with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation on minority issues in Turkey.** Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark took part.

25.11 **Seminar series “25 Years in the EU - Åland's Experiences”, part 2: Åland's development during its time in the EU: observations on population, labor market, education and civil society.** Kenth Häggblom and Jouko Kinnunen, ÅSUBS.

30.11 **Covid-19 Island Insights Series: Åland**

Islands. Petra Granholm compiled Åland's contribution.

30.11 **The Peace Institute and Fredsfast AB** celebrated the reopening of the house's main entrance to Storagatan with some close guests. The main entrance has been closed since the mid-1980s. The renovation has been made possible through support from the Folke Wickström Memorial Fund, which distributes funds for initiatives that illuminate and preserve the building culture in Mariehamn.

1.12 **Liz Lindvall started working at the Peace Institute.** She will act as an information officer for Susann Simolin, who in 2021 will, for the most part, be on leave for doctoral studies in political science at Åbo Akademi University.

2.12. **Seminar in Helsinki** organised by the Swedish Literary Society on the Åland issue in a broad sense, celebration of Åland 100 years. Susann Simolin spoke on the use of the Åland Example in the world.

3–4.12 **The Truth Commission on Tornedalen convened** and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated.

7.12 **Seminar on the development of democracy in Sweden and Finland on Hanaholmen.** Arranged by The Cultural Fund for Sweden-Finland and the Chydenius Society. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark spoke on minorities. The seminar was linked to the newly started democracy network “Democracy Network 21”.

15.12 **The seminar series “25 Years in the EU - Åland's Experiences” part 3: “The EU and the drafting of legislation on Åland - what lessons?”**, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

Democracy researchers had time to meet in January.



The Kastelholm Talks 2020 went digital

The sixth annual Kastelholm Talks on Peace were to be organised on 30 March 2020 at Kastelholm Castle with the theme "War, peace and environment". All speakers, moderators, trips, and pre and post-events were booked. Registrations for this year's call had arrived well in advance and the castle would be full. Then the pandemic struck and the staff at the Peace Institute had to make a last-minute decision whether to cancel or digitalise the event.

We made the decision to conduct the talks digitally. The concept was adapted to a more compressed format, the script for the moderators was redesigned and the marketing was intensified. Through successful previous collaborations with the Nordic Institute on Åland and the company Audiotrade, the event was able to take the necessary "digital leap". The challenge was great for us organisers, as we have done nothing like this before. But the result was successful. The technical implementation was nearly flawless. Many found the format appealing and many more than the original 100 registered for the castle, could participate both online and offline. The conversations were taped and published on the Peace Institute's website. In total, more than 300 people have seen the conversations.

New opportunities to reach more people

The speakers at the castle talks were the patron of the talks, President Tarja Halonen; Margot Wallström, former Swedish foreign minister and EU commissioner; and Marja Lehto, Ph.D. in international law, ambassador and Leading Expert at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The first part was moderated by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Ph.D. The second part - the roundtable discussions - was moderated by research coordinator Petra Granholm and the commentators were Pella Thiel, ecologist, systemic activist and cultural change agent; Mikael Sjövall, journalist, communicator and career diplomat at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and Emma Hakala, Ph.D. in political history at the University of Helsinki.

Several speakers emphasised that awareness of the links between the phenomena of war, peace, and the environment has increased in recent times. There is a growing understanding of the environmental impact of war, which directly consists of not only the use of military means or the conflicts that arise from struggles over natural resources, but also of, for example, military waste, and troop movements in sensitive environments. Indirectly, wars deleterious impact on law and order results in a cessation of environmental policies. President Halonen noted that such effects are not limited to the time when a conflict is ongoing, but rather they are long-term and continuous.

The effects before, as well as, during, and after the conflict must be taken into account.

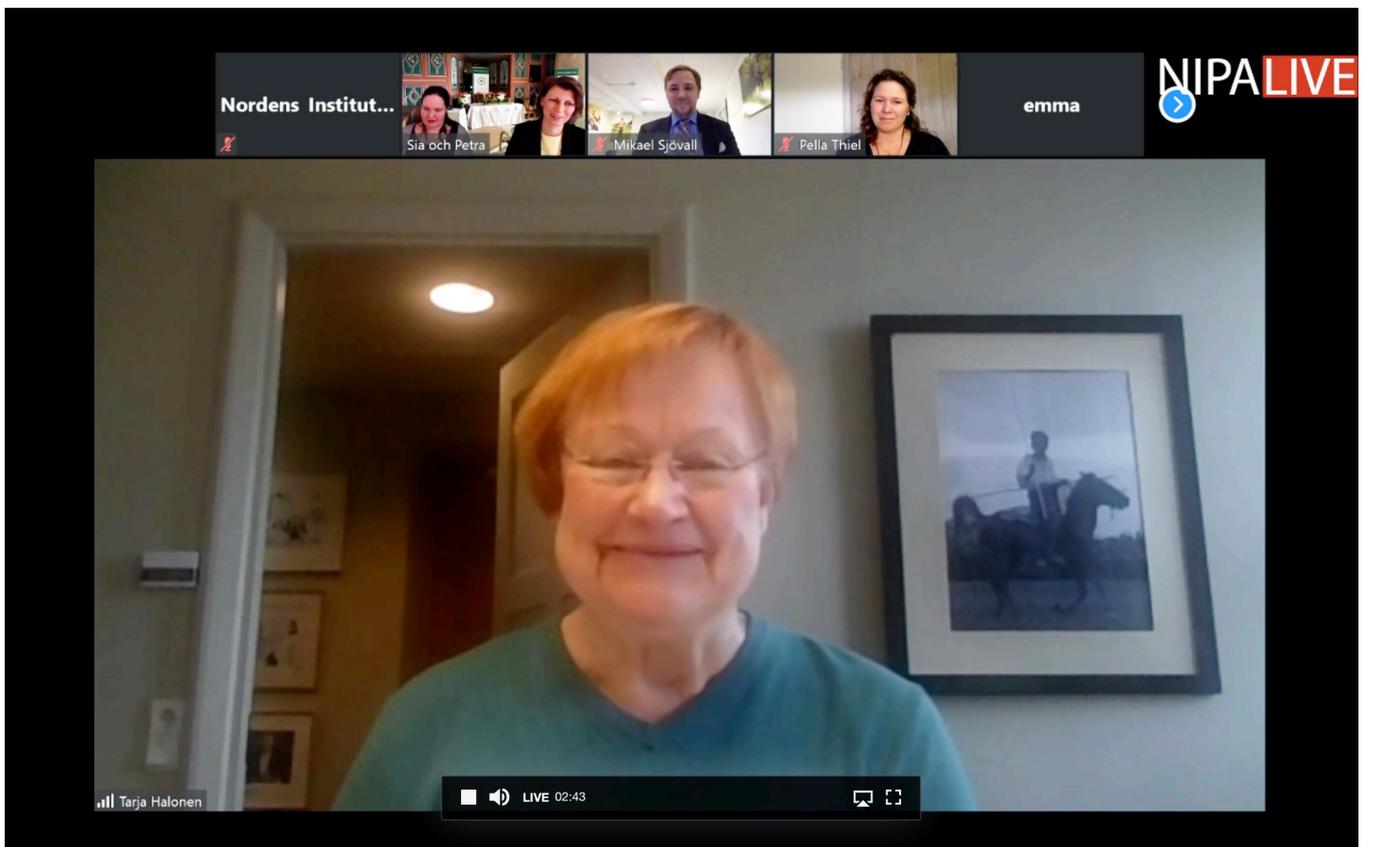
The notion that large-scale environmental destruction in war can be seen as a crime against humanity is beginning to take hold in international law. Such environmental degradation, as exemplified by the Darfur conflict, can then be prosecuted as an international crime. Both Lehto and Hakala pointed out that the link between issues of war, peace and the environment has become so strong that environmental issues today are often interpreted as security issues. Environmental issues are also coupled with peace, partly because we, as Wallström said, need peace in order to address the challenges posed by environmental degradation; and partly because, as President Halonen, among others, pointed out, the resources that go to military rearmament and warfare instead should be invested in the environment.

Redrawing our inner mental map

Sjövall described a paradigm shift in three areas - in politics where climate issues have moved from the margins to the centre of politics; in journalism where environmental issues went from being something as odd as guys in knitted wool sweaters, to becoming something that all must familiarise themselves with; and broadly in the financial and business world, where environmental considerations are no longer considered to be in direct conflict with business, on the contrary, they are an opportunity to both make money and save the environment.

Both Wallström and Thiel referred to the UN's major environmental conference held in Stockholm nearly 50 years ago and where both the principle of "do no harm" and the concept of "ecocide" were discussed. Hakala outlined three levels where the interplay between the environment and society can lead to threats to safety, life, and health. At the local level, we are hit by storms, floods or pandemics, and it is often the most vulnerable people who are hardest hit. At the geopolitical level, political and economic factors come into play when international phenomena, such as migration and conflict, arise.

The speakers pointed out that within the UN's Global Goals Agenda 2030 there is a complete action plan. However, the skills necessary to achieve these goals must be sharpened, and for that to occur our way of thinking must further change. Archbishop KG Hammar stated that in order to achieve peace we must redraw our inner mental map. Drawing upon his words, Spiliopoulou Åkermark pointed out that the same applies if we want to achieve our climate goals.





How Has Åland Been Affected by The EU?

Interactive digital workshops were arranged in 2020 in connection with the Åland Islands Peace Institute commission by the Åland Islands Government, and in collaboration with ÅSUB, to investigate the significance of EU membership for Åland. We have called the seminar series “25 years in the EU - Åland experiences”. Three such seminars were held during the autumn and are available on the Peace Institute’s YouTube channel.

The first seminar was called “Mariehamn - Brussels - Helsinki. Voices and Relationships” and was held on Tuesday, 13th October at 13.00-15.00 as a webinar via Zoom. The seminar presented the “half-time results” of what 25 years of EU membership has meant for Åland. It was presented by Susann Simolin - Information Officer and Researcher at Åland’s Peace Institute, and research student at Åbo Akademi University, and Gustav Blomberg - former assistant to Åland’s MP in the Finnish parliament, Current municipal director, who is soon to complete his MA in European Studies at the University of Gothenburg. After the presentations, a panel discussion was held with Roger Nordlund, Åland government 1999–2007, now Speaker of the Åland Parliament, and Julia Lindholm, who was the Åland Government representative in Brussels 2014–2020. The moderator was Katarina Fellman, director of ÅSUB.

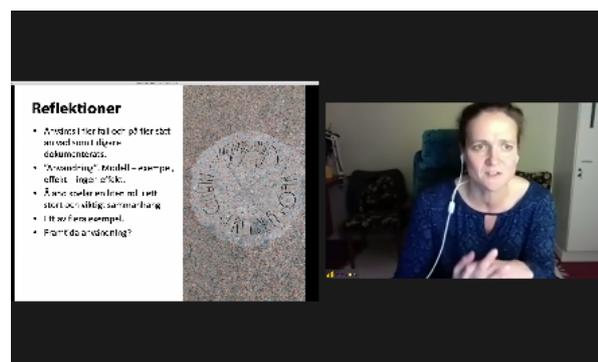
Labor market and civil society

Part two of the seminar series on the EU was a webinar on 25th November entitled “Åland’s Development During its Time in the EU: Observations on Population, Labour Market, Education, and Civil Society.” Participating were research director Jouko Kinnunen and statistics director Kenth Häggblom from ÅSUB, and child and discrimination

ombudsman Johanna Fogelström-Duns. The discussion was lead by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, director of the Peace Institute.

What lessons exist for the drafting of legislation?

The drafting of legislation is an important but relatively unfamiliar part of the Åland government. The task of the legislators is to prepare a draft of new legislation. The European Union uses common rules as a key instrument for European integration. How has the Legislature managed the application of EU law since 1995? Does this application signify a contraction or expansion of Åland’s jurisdiction? In what way has the drafting of legislation changed over time? Part three of the seminar series was entitled “The EU and the Drafting of Legislation on Åland - What Lessons?” and aired as a webinar on Tuesday, 15 December via Zoom. The Peace Institute’s director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark spoke about preliminary conclusions from a forthcoming report on the drafting of legislation and the EU and then discussed them with Gunnar Jansson, deputy district chief, former Member of Parliament and senior adviser to the Åland Peace Institute. The moderator was Wille Valve, M.S. in political science, Member of Parliament, and board member of the Peace Institute.





What knowledge does Åland need?

On 22 October 2020, the KUT network (the Network for Sustainable Knowledge Development on Åland) organised a conference at Åland's Maritime Museum, shown on YouTube, titled "Knowledge and Research Which Drive Regional Development and Innovation". At the conference, it was discussed where Åland's needs lie for reinforcing knowledge development and research structures, and what experiences exist in other regions. This conference was in conjunction with the Peace Institute's autumn symposium.

The conference was divided into two parts. The first part was held in English and was opened by the Peace Institute's director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Minister of Development Alfons Röblom. Afterwards, four speakers gave a glimpse into different regions' work with knowledge development. The first speaker was Günther Rautz, head of the Institute for Minority Rights at EURAC Research in Tyrol. He recounted how the institute, which was founded in 1992 with 12 employees, has developed and grown up to where it is today with 300 researchers from 30 countries, and what role EURAC plays today in the autonomous life of South Tyrol.

Increased cooperation

Nina Harjunpää, specialist planner with the Southern Ostrobothnia Association of Higher Education, described, along with other speakers at the conference, how Espanet in southern Ostrobothnia is working to develop a new research culture, and how collaboration has increased between universities, research institutions, companies and local organisations. Annika Sølvará, director of the Faroe Islands Research Council, then spoke on how the Faroe Islands structure their work through research policy and research funding.

Lastly, Jouku Kinnunen, head of research at ÅSUB, spoke about Åland, growth, resources and smart regions. Shortly afterwards, a discussion was held, led by moderator Hanna Hagmark, director of the Åland Maritime Museum.

An autonomy must be able to think for itself

During the second part of the conference, a discussion was held in Swedish with a panel consisting

of public officials and private individuals from Åland. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark moderated. She asked the panel questions about knowledge development, research, skills supply, collaborations and digitisation from an Åland vantage point. What exists and what can be further developed? What more and what new is needed? What does it mean that "an autonomy must be able to think for itself?" The panel consisted of Johanna Mattila, rector of Åland University of Applied Science; Thomas Lundberg, CEO of Crosskey; Anders Ekström, CEO of Åland Business; Pernilla Weckman, CEO of April Communications; Anders Gustafsson, engineer at Pedago; and Martha Hannus, sustainability strategist for Emmaus Åland.

The Peace Institute in a new democratic network

On 7 December 2020, "Democracy Network 21" was launched by the Anders Chydenius Foundation in collaboration with the Åland Peace Institute, Hanaholmen and Lund University, with the Peace Institute's director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark as a part of the management group. The Democracy Network will operate during 2021, a year when Sweden celebrates its century-long democracy, Finland chairs the 50th anniversary of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and Åland celebrates 100 years of autonomy. The network's task is to encourage its members to participate in democracy discussions within the Nordic countries, and to promote collaboration between democracy actors and democracy debaters in Sweden, Finland and Åland.

Research Network RECAST

The Åland Islands Peace Institute participates in the research network RECAST (Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe) which is led by the University of Málaga and supported through the EU's COST program. An interdisciplinary doctoral course was planned for the autumn of 2020 and will take place digitally in early 2021 under the title "Democratic Constitutionalism and Rights". This time the course is given in collaboration with the Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research Moldovan Academy of Sciences, in Chisinau, Moldova. The director of the Peace Institute is one of the course's lecturers.



Year 2020 at the Mediation Office



Mediation is a free, statutory service, open to everyone in Finland. Since 2016, the Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has been the responsible authority for crime mediation and dispute resolution in Finland.

On Åland, the Åland Islands Peace Institute is commissioned by an agreement with THL to provide mediation services through our mediation office. We have been doing this since 2007.

Mediation can be seen as a complement to a legal process and a way for the parties to speak and gain an understanding of the origin and consequences of the dispute.

In 2020 the Mediation Offices's part-time work was divided amongst Petra Granholm, mediation

manager, and Mirjam Lukola, mediation supervisor.

The year was also different for our mediation office. The corona pandemic forced the office to remain closed during portions of March and April. As with much else, the national mediation work moved online, yet on Åland one could continue to mediate on site.

Markedly, the number of cases received by police, prosecutors, other authorities, and private individuals decreased drastically compared to last year. In 2020, the Mediation Office received 33 initiatives compared to 59 in 2019, and the number of initiated mediations was, as to be expected, approximately half, i.e. 14.

One of 17 new mediators

During the autumn, an introductory course in mediation and restorative justice was held in collaboration with the Open University of Åland, University of Applied Sciences and Västra Nyland's Mediation Office. The class was taught by Petra Granholm and Mona Bischoff. There was a total of 30 applicants with 17 accepted. Amongst the accepted was Anniina Elmozy.

– The course was taught at a high level and I gained new knowledge that is useful throughout life, she says. Already Anniina Elmozy has had an opportunity to mediate.

–It was very interesting, she says when we speak over the phone a few months after she finished the mediation course and received her degree. During four weekends, she and her 16 classmates learned the basics of mediation, proper attitude, dialogue, and restorative justice. On one occasion, police and prosecutors visited speaking on their cooperation with the Mediation Office. Several current medi-

ators also took part in order to deepen their own knowledge and to contribute their experiences to the course.

–I have always been interested in how peace can be created at a larger, societal level and immediately became curious about the mediation course, because I think that peace-making must start at the individual level, says Anniina, who urges all those interested in these issues to take the course the next time it is given.

–We went through many, exciting things: the overall approach, how you should behave as a mediator, but also how important it is not to get caught up in what has been, how you can move on, accepting and respecting the other, how important it is to make room for different points of view and specific feelings.

–These are important things that you can also benefit from in your own personal life.



Solenn Took an E-course on the Åland Example

Åland's Peace Institute has developed an internet-based English-language university course — Territorial Autonomy as a Tool for Diversity Management - Lessons from the Åland Example — on territorial self-government with Åland as an example and case study.

Tara Bamberg and Solenn Boubour were two of the participants in the e-course, which started on 19 October 2020.

- Before, I thought that I knew everything about Åland, but the course truly gave me an in-depth knowledge that I will greatly benefit from, says Bamberg.

The course, which is held in English, is interdisciplinary and discusses self-government in a broad perspective, in relation to, among other things, self-determination, multilevel governance and minority rights.

It touches on Åland's autonomy, demilitarisation and neutralisation, and the cultural and linguistic guarantees of language and culture. The significance of territorial autonomy as a possible tool for conflict resolution is also discussed.

- I'm working on my master's degree in international relations at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, but I come from Åland and thus

thought I had a grasp of most things, says Tara with a smile.

- But that was not the case. The course has given me many new angles of approach, she adds and thinks it was interesting that the course also addressed other territorial self-governments.

Solenn Boubour, who in turn is studying at the University of Greenland in their master's Program in West Nordic Studies - Governance and Sustainable Management, had not heard of the Åland Example before she took the course and thinks the whole Åland situation is quite interesting.

- What I liked best about the course was the discussions that took place with the other participants. I have learned a lot about seeing things from different perspectives, she says.

The course, which is taught online on a digital e-learning platform, is based on international research and the Peace Institute's extensive experiences and publications.

The course is supervised and taught by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Ph.D., director of the Åland Peace Institute, and is given in collaboration with the Open University of Åland University of Applied Sciences.



New Main Entrance Facing Storagatan

The Åland Peace Institute's wholly owned subsidiary Fredsfast AB has, during this financial year, completed planned maintenance on the farmhouse's facades in accordance with the company's renovation plan. During the financial year a tenant left, which resulted in a marginal loss of income.

The Board of Fredsfast AB has been composed of the Chairman and CEO Roger Nordlund, Barbro Sundback and Bror Myllykoski. Erika Sjölund,

GR, has been the company's auditor. The Annual General Meeting was held at the Åland Peace Institute on 02.06.2020.

One company goal has been to open up the historic main entrance to Storagatan, which has been shut since 1984 when the Regional Council moved to the new Statens Ämbetshus. The project could be realised with support from Folke Wickström's Memorial Fund. A solemn inauguration of the main entrance was held on Monday 30.11.2020.

The Peace Fund and New Guest Researcher Programme

The Åland Peace Fund was established by the Åland Peace Institute with the purpose of supporting peace work. Private individuals, organisations and companies can support the work of the Peace Institute through large and small donations, and through the purchase of greeting cards and memorial donations.

During the year, the Peace Institute's Research Council and Board decided to use funds from the Peace Fund to establish a guest researcher program named "The Åland Peace Fellowship". The goal of the program is twofold. We want to give successful and promising researchers, from all over the world, the opportunity to stay on Åland

and benefit from the Peace Institute's expertise and resources in issues within the institute's field of work, especially autonomy arrangements, minority issues, conflict management and collective security. We also want to expand the Peace Institute's and Åland society's knowledge and network within issues of importance to international peace and security.

The call for the program was made in the autumn of 2020 and the applications were reviewed by the Peace Institute's Research Council. The very first scholarship recipient will be presented in connection with the Kastelholm Talks in March 2021.





Staff and interns

This year at the Peace Institute has also been characterised by continuity and knowledge development for the staff. The staff's knowledge, comfort and well-being are of great importance for creating the best results from the Peace Institute's work.

Thus opportunities are provided for development and knowledge, acquisition within one's own field. Regular staff meetings, organisational development days and annual employee interviews strengthen information flows and catch obstacles and problems.

Åland's Peace Institute aims to make it possible for staff to combine an active and stimulating work life with a family life. The sustainability policy is followed up at least once a year.

One change is that our information manager and researcher Susann Simolin in 2021 will, for the most part, be on leave for doctoral studies in political

science at Åbo Akademi University. In December, therefore, Liz Lindvall was employed as acting information officer for the year 2021.

Åland's Peace Institute annually receives two to four university interns who are given the opportunity to increase their knowledge within the institute's core areas. In addition to university internships, the Peace Institute, as much as possible, also accepts people who are doing language internships, work trials through AMS or daywork.

The university internships are financed through AMS or other external sources. We see the internships as an opportunity to support competence development within our areas of activity. All interns are offered meaningful tasks and personal guidance. The tasks can vary greatly depending on current projects. In 2020, we had six interns, one of whom was our first distance digital internship.

Peace Institute's Staff

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, director

Petra Granholm, research coordinator and head of the Åland Mediation Office

Mirjam Lukola, organisation secretary and mediation officer

Susann Simolin, researcher and head of information

Linn Simonsson, project manager Kastelholm Talks and Åland100

Johnny Andersen, IT manager and financial assistant

John Knight, librarian and archivist

Liz Lindvall, information officer from December 2020

This Year's Interns

Mari Ek from the master's program in peace, mediation and conflict research at the University of Tampere, was a research intern from February to April 2020. During her internship, she helped with research projects, publication databases and organisational tasks related to the Kastelholm Talks.

Elvira Jansson, a sociology student at Novia University of Applied Sciences in Turku, had her internship at the Åland Mediation Office. She helped with the preparations for this autumn's introductory course in mediation and immersed herself in the possibilities for further development of mediation for children and young people.

Saana Majander was a research intern at the Åland Peace Institute from August to October 2020. She is studying law at the University of Helsinki and assisted at the Peace Institute in the research project on the importance of EU membership for Åland, particularly in regards to the impact on the drafting of legislation within the government.

Vilma Kallio was an information intern at the

Åland Peace Institute from October to December 2020. She is studying international relations at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi. At the Peace Institute she helped with updating the website, social media and newsletters, and with marketing seminars and publications on EU issues.

Jessica Gregory did her language internship at the Peace Institute from November to December. Originally from North Carolina, USA, she holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech and Cornell University. At the Peace Institute, Jessica helped with a translation from Swedish into English of the Peace Institute's new website.

Tesfaye Ayalew Mekonen was the Peace Institute's first digital intern and has been a distance intern from Australia, from December 2020 to February 2021. He is originally from Ethiopia, but is studying for a master's degree in peace and conflict studies at the University of Queensland. At the Peace Institute, Tesfaye worked on issues of identity, conflict management and multilevel governance in Africa.



The Peace Institute's first digital intern:

"I have learned a lot"

As a one-year Rotary Fellow, Tesfaye Ayalew Mekonen left Ethiopia and went to the University of Queensland in Australia to study for a master's degree in peace and conflict studies. Along his path, he found his way to Åland's Peace Institute and in December 2020 became our first digital intern.

Tesfaye is originally from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. In his home country, he recently taught public law at the College of Law at Debre Berhan University. In addition, he has volunteered to help vulnerable people in society with legal services and has been a legal advisor to a government office that works with land administration. He thinks a lot about what kind of solution there could be for Ethiopia in terms of the over 80 different ethnic groups and the possibility of a certain self-administration.

–During my internship I have learned a lot. First of all, what an autonomy actually is. Then I learned a lot about the Åland Example and developed a basic knowledge of Åland's autonomy, and how the Åland Example can be used in other conflict areas.

–The conclusion I mainly draw is that how the administration is constructed contributes a lot to what solutions can be found. Among other things, I have looked at Zanzibar and their autonomy, which in a way is reminiscent of Åland's in certain matters. They have their own parliament, their own constitution, government and even their own president. And Zanzibar is an island kingdom just like Åland.

Demographic difficulties

Cameroon, in turn, is not an island and does not have the same territorial division when it comes to demographics, Tesfaye states. This makes the situation more difficult when it comes to the ongoing conflict over the different perspectives on what kind of government one should have.

–In Cameroon, there were historically two different colonial governments - the British and the French. One part has learned one way to govern a country. The other part has learned another. In the same way, when it comes to my

own home country, it is also demographically difficult, he says and continues:

- Giving autonomy to all the different ethnic groups in Ethiopia would be an impossible practice. Nor would we be able to draw up as clear territorial autonomy as Åland, because we are not an island and many of the different ethnic groups live within the same area. The Åland Example therefore can not be applied directly, says Tesfaye.

–But if the ethnic groups could live together - intermingled - and obtain cultural and linguistic rights, then perhaps we could reach a solution to the current problematic situation in Ethiopia.

Åland Peace Institute's Finances 2020

The basic funding that the Åland Peace Institute receives from the Åland Government provides stability to the institute's basic functions. Additionally, it enables for the development of new projects and the application for additional funding for research and various types of projects and initiatives. We apply for three times greater the amount that will ultimately be granted. For several years, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has emphasised the importance of long-term planning and financing to ensure the sustainability of staffing and basic functions. A multi-year agreement for the years 2018-2021 between the Åland Peace Institute and the Åland Government has ensured this.

In 2020, the Åland Islands Peace Institute received operational and project support from e.g. the Åland Government, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Cultural Foundation and the Åland Cultural Foundation. During the year, the Peace Institute continued to work on a two-year investigation on EU issues in collaboration with Statistics and Research Åland (ÅSUB).

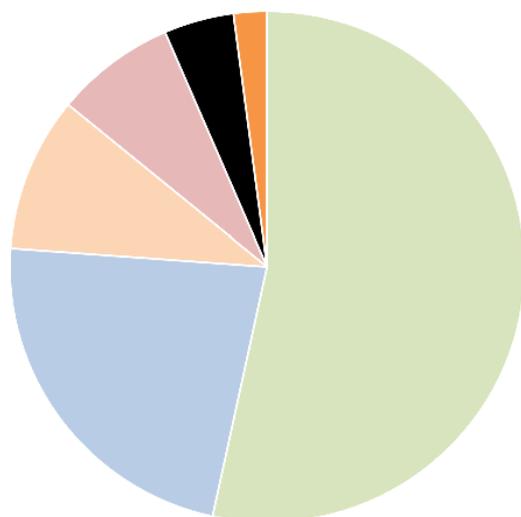
Collaborations with partners in the Nordic region and Europe have also resulted in new income.

During the year, the total revenues were €398,679. Revenues for specific projects were €69,517. Among the projects are the Kastelholm Talks 2020, and the conference on the importance of knowledge and research conducted in collaboration with the Network for Sustainable Knowledge Development on Åland (KUT network).

The total costs for the year 2020 were €393,764. The result for 2020 will be a surplus of €4,913.77. Liquidity during the year has been good. The foundation has not paid any compensation to the board members.

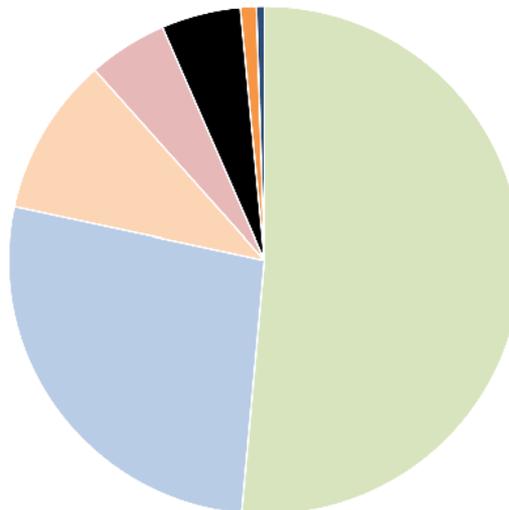
The Peace Institute's Finance Council meets approximately every two months and, if necessary, more often to follow up on the Institute's finances.

Costs 2020



Basic functions	210 273 €	53 %
Eu project	89 607 €	23 %
Mediation Office	38 476 €	10 %
The Kastelholm Talks	29 848 €	8 %
E-course Ålex	17 320 €	4 %
Seminar	8 240 €	2 %
Amount	393 764 €	100 %

Revenues 2020



Åland Government/ Paf-means	205 000 €	51,4 %
Other income, such as services sold, travel allowance, donations, etc	107 489 €	27,0 %
THL	40 190 €	10,1 %
The Ministry of Justice	20 000 €	5,0 %
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs	20 000 €	5,0 %
The Swedish Culture Foundation	4 000 €	1,0 %
The Åland Cultural Foundation	2 000 €	0,5 %
Amount	398 679 €	100 %

Newsletter

The Peace Institute sends free newsletters by e-mail to subscribers 4-5 times a year. For a subscription, register at www.peace.ax.

Publications

At www.peace.ax, all reports in the report series "Report from the Åland Peace Institute" and certain other publications can be downloaded free of charge as a pdf. 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 us. More info: www.peace.ax.

Library

The Peace Institute's library specialises in literature that treats of peace and conflict issues, with a focus on minorities, autonomy and security, as well as gender issues.

The books are included in the Åland library database and are available for home loans.

Visitor Reception

The Peace Institute receives groups or individual politicians, civil servants, civic organisations, journalists, etc. who have an interest in the international relevance of the Åland Example. The basic visit includes a presentation of the Åland Example, its history, components and lessons learned, as well as the Åland Peace Institute's role and agenda. The presentation, including dis-

cussion, takes approximately an hour and is offered in Swedish or English, mainly by our information managers and the research coordinator. These presentations are free of charge. For longer or in-depth lectures and workshops, the Peace Institute charges a fee.



19/60 MET. "VÅRA FUGAR" - Johan Sjöström

The Peace Fund

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The institutes brochures in Swedish, English, and Russian





Do you want to write for JASS?

The Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies - JASS - is the Peace Institutes electronic journal that has been published in four volumes with two issues each. The journal's overarching theme is peace and security which is examined through the lenses of autonomy, demilitarisation, and minority protection.

By integrating these viewpoints the journal's editorial board strives to present new insights into an increasingly complex world where decision-making occurs at different levels.

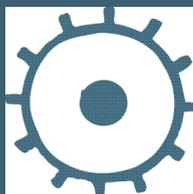
Kjell-Åke Nordquist is the editor-in-chief and

Petra Granholm is the editor, who together with the Peace Institute Research Council constitute the JASS editorial council. Since 2020 JASS has been available on the Directory of Open Access Journals (doaj.org).

All articles undergo a double-blind review before publication.

The editors also welcome other material such as book reviews, research notes and comments.

Are you interested in writing for JASS? Please contact submissions@jass.ax.



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