



Ålands fredsinstitut

THE ÅLAND ISLANDS PEACE INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2021





The Åland Peace Institute - 30 years in the service of peace

In 2022, we will be celebrating the Peace Institute's 30 years of existence and operations. During these years, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has evolved from being thought of as a 'questionable activist group' to becoming a societally important and indispensable institution. The fact that it was established as an independent foundation has over time proved to be a very successful strategic choice. Thanks to this, the Peace Institute has been able to develop independently in a competent way while maintaining integrity and credibility. The fact that our 30th anniversary coincides with the celebrations for 100 years of self-government on Åland gives it, of course, an exceptionally nice setting.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute was created by the Åland Peace Association, whose members during the 1980s performed committed and enduring work which aimed at creating a peace forum of some kind on Åland. The peace association's work created a new understanding and knowledge of demilitarisation among the Ålanders. After 10 years of diligent work in trying to convince politicians, and several investigations, in 1992 the Åland Peace Association chose to take matters into its own hands, establishing the Åland Peace Institute. The work of the Peace Association in the 1980s took place in the shadow of, and was probably also motivated by, the Cold War that was going on at the time. Since then, world developments have seemed to be evolving in a positive direction over the decades – that is, right up until recent times. Now, however, since Russia has brought into question the current security regime, we are living with an escalated security situation in Europe. At the time of writing, a diplomatic shuttle service is underway that aims to reduce tensions and secure the sovereign right of all countries to make decisions concerning their own future. Undoubtedly it can be said that the feeling of the 'Cold War' of the 1980s has now re-emerged in our populations.

Now, if ever it was, it is important that international diplomacy be used to its full potential. No effort should be spared when it comes to calming the situation and avoiding the loss of young people's lives in the trenches again. It is frightening to see how quickly a crisis can arise and escalate. 'Civilised' host leaders have been

quick to use words that we did not think we needed to hear anymore. It is said that the first victim of a war is truth. In the digital age we now live in, it is likely that the 'truth' will be lost long before a war even breaks out. Today there are so many opportunities for spreading disinformation and propaganda in nefarious ways. How can you, as an ordinary person, know when it is a truth you see, hear or read? The work of independent journalists has become increasingly dangerous - but at the same time, their work has never been more important in helping us see reality as it is.

Here on Åland, it is a great asset that the Peace Institute exists in such troubled times. Recently, we have seen how Swedish military defence is being strengthened on Gotland. Then it is of course to be expected that there are also discussions and questions about demilitarisation and what applies to Åland in an escalating crisis situation. In such circumstances it is a strength that the Åland Islands Peace Institute exists and has a director, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, who commands great respect internationally and who can with great competence explain what applies in different situations.

2021 was a year of activity that was still impacted by the global pandemic. Despite this, the staff of the Åland Islands Peace Institute have been engaged in an impressive range of activities with several highlights, such as the Kastelholm Talks on Peace, which had the theme 'Making Peace - Meetings, Mediators and Peace'. The demilitarisation seminar in collaboration with the Åland Parliament gathered more than 30 diplomats from all over the world and was very valuable for the autonomy. A number of publications have also been completed and presented in 2021, enriching our knowledge of self-government as a phenomenon, as well as about minorities. The board of directors, the research council, our invaluable and creative staff, and everyone who has, in various ways, contributed to 2021 being a productive and successful year for the Åland Islands Peace Institute are all worthy of a big thank you. The world needs good examples, skilled diplomacy, faith in the future - and above all - peace.

Roger Nordlund, Chairman

When dreams come true

2021 has been an odd year. On the one hand the many obstacles caused by the pandemic have continued to require constant and tiring adaptations and adjustments. On the other hand, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has succeeded in realising ideas and projects that we have dreamt of for a long time. We have launched a new website which is better suited to the digital era. A database of publications and a digital map showing the use of the Åland example around the world are two other new achievements. Interesting voices from among our visitors, partners and staff are now to be found in the Institute's podcast and on our YouTube channel.

Two new publications have been released in the autumn of 2021. One deals with aspects of democracy on Åland and the other gives an accessible and beautiful introduction to Åland in time and space. The cooperation between the Åland Museum and the Åland Islands Peace Institute has once more proved to be efficient, successful and inspiring.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of the Åland Peace Fellowship programme, through which we could receive a young and talented researcher for two months thanks to the Åland Peace Fund. The research stay was highly productive for both parties through manifold discussions and exchanges of information.

This odd year of 2021 could be summed up with the words perseverance, innovation, knowledge and communication. When the pandemic has closed us down both physically and mentally, we have been able to find new ways to communicate with our surrounding environments. This became clear to me during the 2021 Kastelholm Talks on Peace. There is now both a level of competence and confidence to make this high-profile event also one of high quality, in content as well as in form and techni-

cal solutions.

When dreams come true a sense of satisfaction and gratitude for the work follows, as well as for the collaborations that have allowed for such results. In spite of the heightened security and peace concerns at the end of the year, we have been able to see throughout the year how people around the world, as well as in the Nordic region and around the Baltic Sea, wish and work for peace. It is those encounters, conversations and cooperation that make work at the Åland Islands Peace Institute meaningful and important. Dreams can come true.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark
director





Board of Directors

Roger Nordlund, Chair of the Board. Member of the 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.

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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.

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

Hanna Ojanen. is Director of Research at the University of Tampere and Associate Professor at the Swedish National Defense Collage and the University of Helsinki.

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

Members of the Research Council

Gunilla Herolf, chair. PhD, expert in issues related to European integration and security policy.

Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Professor of International Relations.

Mikael Wigell, Research Director at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs.

The Director of the Peace Institute **Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark**, Associate Professor in Public International Law, participates in the Research Council activities as its secretary, with the help of Research Coordinator **Petra Granholm**.

The Year in 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, 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 functioning as a meeting place and arena for dialogue within its areas of knowledge.

The year's collaborative research projects include those with the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund. The Peace Institute has initiated a cooperation with Nasiffik, centre for foreign and security policy at the University of Greenland/Ilisimatusarfik. During the year, a broad network of researchers with connections to the Åland Islands finalised the publication 'Styr ålänningarna sitt öde? Demokratiperspektiv på Åland' ('Are the Ålanders in control of their own destiny? Perspectives on democracy in the Åland Islands') while the study of

Åland's first 25 years within the EU moved towards completion, with the last sub-studies to be published in the beginning of 2022. Peace Institute associates have also participated in several events arranged by others. The 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 has held three ordinary meetings, in which, amongst other things, a research programme for the period of 2022-2025 has been developed.

The members of the Research Council have continued to review and guide the development of the e-journal JASS – the Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies – and are active in the call for and selection of the newly created research post the Åland Peace Fellow, which was launched during the year. The call for the Åland Peace Fellow attracted tens of applications from all over the world.

Doctoral Candidate Ivan U. Kentros Klyszcz was chosen to become the first Peace Fellow. Ivan participated in several internal and external seminars during his stay. A research seminar was arranged digitally in October together with the Peace Institute research network around the world, where Ivan had a chance to present his research concerning autonomous territories in non-democratic regimes, focusing on examples from Central Asia.



He is a Polish / Mexican researcher working at the University of Tartu in Estonia. Ivan Ulises Kentros Klyszcz is the Peace Institute's very first Åland Peace Fellow.

His research focuses on Russian foreign policy and policy in the North Caucasus.

'On Åland and at the Peace Institute, I have learned things both about myself and about my identity as a researcher,' he says.

Ivan Ulises Kentros Klyszcz has an upright posture and a serious demeanour, but is always close to breaking out into a big and friendly smile.

He applied for a guest research position at the Åland Islands Peace Institute for several reasons:

'Above all, I wanted to continue my research in the direction of territorial autonomies and broaden my experience within peace research, and on Åland I have found these in one and the same place, which would not have been easy to find in other places in the world.' We are sitting inside the Peace Institute's library and Ivan takes a look out of the window and fixes his gaze on the sea.

'The stay has also given me the opportunity to live and experience life in a territorial autonomy in practice and it is an experience I would not have had if I had not been here physically. Among other things, I have been curious about how the language situation is implemented in practice and what role self-government plays in Ålanders' lives. I also hope that with my previous research experience I have contributed to discussions on issues concerning autonomy on Åland.'

As a private person, Ivan thinks it has been interes-

ting to get to know the other researchers at the Peace Institute and this has allowed him to think about his own research identity, and especially about how he should proceed after his doctoral dissertation, which he recently completed.

An autonomous region in practice

Ivan's research topic is autonomous regions within non-democratic regimes.

'My current focus is on Central Asia and I have previously studied the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet era. Autonomous territories have always interested me, and I first started studying that subject in a Russian context and in particular the autonomous regions in Eurasia. Then I realised that there is a knowledge gap in our understanding of how these territories work within non-democratic regimes. How they are represented and how their self-government actually works within the state. I have therefore investigated this matter,' he says, and adds:

'It has also made it extra interesting to be on Åland. Here I have seen what the opposite looks like - an autonomous region within a democratic state.'

Through his research, Ivan hopes to be able to investigate all kinds of autonomous territories and thus have a better view of how this tool can be used to its full potential. A new guest researcher for the Åland Peace Fellow programme has also been selected for the year 2022. The Åland Peace Fellow programme has been made possible thanks to the Institute's Peace Fund. It was set up by the Åland Islands Peace Institute with the purpose of supporting peace work.



How has EU membership affected Åland?

Åland and Finland have been a part of the European Union for 25 years. During 2020-2021 the Åland Islands Peace Institute has been working on a project, in collaboration with ÅSUB, investigating the significance of EU membership for Åland. Several reports have been published and open seminars have been held during the project to present sub-reports and results. In 2021, several reports were published and a final seminar was also held for the project.

The first report to be published in 2021 for the project was 'The EU referendums on Åland: an overview of the EU debates in the Åland Parliament during autumn 1994', by Hasan Akintug. It's about the political debate that took place in Åland's parliament when the EU referendums were held on Åland in the autumn of 1994. 'The EU broke through like a wedge and split Åland's party politics at this time. It is interesting that all parties that finally voted for EU membership also expressed reservations during the process', Akintug writes in his report. It surprises him that there was no negotiation or discussion about what would have happened if the result of the EU referendums had been a 'no'.

Åland closer to Finland due to EU membership

The second EU report that was published in 2021 was 'Att påverkas och påverka – Ålands ambitioner och självbestämmande inom EU?' by Susann Simolin. 'The decision-making areas of the EU and the regions often overlap, and then regions can, according to the research, "lose" power to the EU', says Susann Simolin. In her report, she states that Åland now has a closer relationship to Finland because of EU membership.

A catalyst for environmental legislation on Åland

'EU:s miljörätt – grus i maskineriet eller katalysator på Åland?' is the title of Petra Granholm's EU report, which was published in May 2021.

'I can definitely state, as my title on the report reads, that the EU has both meant much more bureaucracy, or gravel in the machinery, as I call it, in that it sometimes gets tough to implement new laws, but also that the EU is a catalyst for the environmental legislation on Åland, which in the long run means protection for our Åland nature and environment', she says.

What she also discovered is that there is very little political prestige in the environmental field.

'There is rather a consensus that the area is important to legislate on', she says and adds:

'We also do not have the resources or the competence to do it ourselves.'

As good as other autonomous regions

How then has the EU affected legislative drafting on Åland? Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has looked at this in her report 'EU och lagberedningen på Åland'.

'Broadly speaking, it can be said that Åland has done well, impressively well, given the limited resources. Especially during the very active and tough phase in the 90s', says Sia

Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

'So we have every reason to feel satisfied that Åland has done at least as well as many other autonomous regions from a legislative perspective. At the same time, some of those I have had the opportunity to interview say that parts of the exclusive competence, the special areas of responsibility for Åland, have not developed as much as one would like due to EU pressure'.

Watch our seminars on our YouTube channel

All our seminars in the EU project can be found on the Åland Islands Peace Institute's YouTube channel. On Thursday 18 February 2021, Petra Granholm spoke about the environment, the EU and Åland and Linn Simonsson about the EU and the constant relevance of spring hunting in Åland. The seminar was held, due to the pandemic, on Zoom. The moderator was the Peace Institute's chairman Roger Nordlund. 20 May 2021 was the date scheduled for the EU project's final seminar, which was held in Åland's parliament for a limited number of guests – due to the pandemic – but which could also be attended online. Nils Torvalds, Member of the European Parliament for the Swedish People's Party in Finland, Markku Suksi, Professor of Public Law at Åbo Akademi University, Jan-Erik Rask, CEO of Ålands Näringsliv and Linnea Johansson from the Åland government commented upon and discussed the theme 'Strategies, experiences and future prospects'. From the Peace Institute, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Susann Simolin, Petra Granholm and Linn Simonsson participated. And from ÅSUB; Katarina Fellman, Jouko Kinnunen and Kenth Häggblom.

Are you interested to know more? All our published reports can be found in our publication database:
It's free of charge to download them.

The Year in Brief

8.2 Release of the report 'The EU referendums on Åland: An overview of the EU debates in the Åland Parliament during autumn 1994' written by Hasan Akintug.

18.2 Work seminar part 4 on Zoom: Environment and spring hunting. Part 4 in the seminar series '25 years of EU experiences on Åland'. Petra Granholm has done research on the environment, EU and Åland. Linn Simonsson talks about the constant relevance of spring hunting in the Åland –EU relationship.

5.3 New podcast series 'Ahead of the Kastelholm Talks on Peace' is released. Johan Pawli is the first podcast guest, Susann Simolin the second and Isak Svensson the third.



Happy that 1 000 people likes us on Facebook!

28.3 Susann Simolin discusses the meaning of the concept of 'The Åland Example' as part of the Mariehamn literature days.

29.3 The Kastelholm Talks on Peace. This year's panelists are Jan Eliasson and Björn Vikström. The theme: 'Making Peace – Meetings, Mediator and Peace'. This year's event is digital due to the ongoing pandemic.

31.3 Ivan Ulises Kentros Klyszcz is appointed to be the first Åland Islands Peace Fellow 2021.

10.5 Several webinars about Åland and its 100 years of existence. Carl Bildt, Tarja Halonen, Veronica Thörnroos, Speakers: Peter Lindbäck, Janne Holmén and our director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

18.5 A new report by Petra Granholm is launched in Swedish: 'EU:s miljörätt –grus i maskineriet eller en katalysator på Åland'. It's about the EU and its impact on environmental issues on Åland.

20.5 EU project final seminar: 'Strategies, Experiences and Future Prospects', held in the Åland

parliament. Guests: Nils Torvalds, Markku Suksi, Jan-Erik Rask and Linnea Johansson. From the Åland Islands Peace Institute: Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Susann Simolin, Petra Granholm and Linn Simonsson, from ÅSUB; Katarina Fellman, Jouko Kinnunen and Kent Häggblom.

25.5 A new EU report by Susann Simolin about Åland's ambitions and self-determination within the EU.

25.5 Åland's 100 years are celebrated in the Swedish Parliament with a digital seminar. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark is participating.

1.6 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark is a new member of the Swedish Language Board in Finland. The term of office is three years and extends to 31 May 2024.

3.6 Our Research Coordinator Petra Granholm, participates in an initiative called 'COVID-19 Island Insights Series' about islands and sustainability during and after the coronavirus pandemic.

9.6 The Åland Islands Parliament Chancellery Commission awards 8 research scholarships from the Åland government's 75th anniversary fund. Two of the fellows are Susann Simolin and Hasan Akintug.

15.6 New EU report in Swedish: 'EU och lagberedningen på Åland' by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

7.7 Åland 100 has been invited to the city of Fredrikshamn on the 7th of July to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Åland. Hanna Ojanen and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark discuss the international significance of Åland's special status and other aspects of Åland.

26–27.7 Our director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participates at the Nitobe Symposium, co-organised by Ulster University and the Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems.

15.9 On International Democracy Day, the Åland Islands Peace Institute, in a broad collaboration between several organisations and voices both from within and outside Åland, organise talks on democratic engagement – as well as a book launch and think tanks.

15.9 Åland's Peace Institute publishes a book in Swedish about different democratic perspectives on Åland: 'Styr ålänningarna sitt öde? Demokratiperspektiv på Åland'.

20.9 The first Åland Peace Fellow Ivan U. Kentros Klyszcz arrives in Åland for his two-month long stay.

21.9 A visit by the Swedish ambassador Nicola Clase, who wants to learn more about the Peace Institute and what we do.

12.10 A new issue of JASS is being published.



20.10 The Peace Institute participates in a seminar about Åland's demilitarisation, organised by the Åland Parliament. Speeches by the Finnish president, the minister for Åland, Sweden's Deputy Foreign Minister, researcher Åsa Gustafsson and our director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

27.10 Lunch Seminar with Lars Backström from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland. He talks (in English) about 'Which are the global megatrends of today?'



4.11 Launching our digital, interactive map of where the Åland Example is being used in the world.

12-14.11 The Peace Institute is participating in a Nordic Peace Seminar with the theme: 'Neighbours as friends, not enemies'. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participates.

17.11 Law students from Helsinki are visiting. Petra talks about the Peace Institute and what we do; our information intern Eleonora Drugg presents various intern possibilities at the institute.

18.11 Heidi Herlin visit the Peace Institute and holds an internal seminar about her doctoral thesis 'Cross-sector partnership between companies and not-for-profit organizations within corporate social responsibility' at the Hanken School of Economics.

20.11 A new book is launched: 'Åland i tiden och i världen', written by Nina Fellman.

3.12 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participates in a seminar at Hanaholmen about connections between the autonomy of the universities and regional autonomies.

7.12 Lunch Seminar with Anders Lidén about imagination, empathy, and reason and how those qualities can be used in world diplomacy.

8.12 A new report from FIIA, written by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and FIIA's Programme director Katja Creutz, is being launched and presented during a live-streamed conference in Copenhagen. The report is entitled 'The Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands in Nordic Cooperation'.

9.12 New EU-report in English by Susanne Simolin, doctoral student in political science at Åbo Akademi and researcher at the Åland Islands Peace Institute, 'Autonomies interacting with the EU – Exploring Variations between the Åland Islands, South Tyrol, and the Faroe Islands'.

16.12 The theme of the Kastelholm Peace Talks 2022 is announced: 'Breakthrough or Breakdown? About Building Trust and Enhancing Disarmament Today'.

20.12 The Åland Islands Peace Institute is starting to co-operate with Nasiffik, the Centre for Foreign and Security Policy at the University of Greenland Ilisimatusarfik. Knowledge and research will be being exchanged– in particular in the fields of security policy and international law.

21.12 The second issue of JASS is being released. This time, we put the spotlight geographically on the African continent and thematically on constitutional arrangements in areas of diversity and conflict.

Kastelholm Talks on Peace 2021

On 29 March 2021 the Kastelholm Talks on Peace were organised for the seventh time, this time with the theme 'Making Peace - Meetings, Mediators and Peace'. The theme related to key aspects of the Åland solution and of the Åland example, whose centenary is being celebrated in 2021-2022. The theme of this series of talks was an examination of ways to promote peace. Because of the pandemic the Kastelholm talks were streamed online and are therefore available for audiences both locally and outside of Åland. On the Peace Institute's YouTube channel the Kastelholm talks can now also be found with English subtitles.

This year's panelists were: Jan Eliasson, Swedish ambassador, former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and current Chairman of the Board of SIPRI, and Björn Vikström, Professor of Theology at Åbo Akademi University, former bishop and Chairman of the Board of the Anders Chydenius Foundation. They discussed this year's theme together with the talks series' patron, former President of Finland Tarja Halonen and the Director of the Peace Institute, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

The panelists addressed the importance of con-

tributing to peace by using words carefully and by maintaining a positive tone in conversations, especially with people of different opinions or who have diverging experiences and perspectives. Such considerations correspond well to the overall goal of the Kastelholm Peace Talks; namely to enhance dialogue rather than debate.

A new element introduced in 2021 was the launch of a podcast series with invited guests who discussed this year's theme from their perspective. The podcast introduced listeners to the themes and created an inspirational entry point to the Kastelholm Talks on Peace. Participants in the 2021 podcast were Kjell-Åke Nordquist, professor in international relations; Johan Pawli, Chief of Police on Åland and former member of the UN peacekeeping forces; researcher Susann Simolin, doctoral candidate in political science at Åbo Akademi University and Isak Svensson, professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict, Uppsala University. The podcast participants were also invited to comment on the discussion between Eliasson, Vikström and Halonen in a digital follow-up conversation. Everything is available on the Peace Institute's YouTube channel.







Åland 100 in Fredrikshamn

Åland 100 was invited to the city of Fredrikshamn (Hamina) on the 7th of July to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Åland solution. In cooperation with Fredrikshamn the Peace Institute arranged a seminar 'Åland 100 in Fredrikshamn'. The festive summer seminar was held in the Fredrikshamn Bastion and was moderated by Pia-Maria Lehtola, journalist from Yle television's cultural department. The seminar was bilingual, held in Finnish and Swedish. A small concert on an island theme was performed by singer Maria

Ylipää with Niko Kumpuvaara on accordion. Minister of Environment Alfons Röblom came with a greeting from the Government of Åland. Åland's Member of Parliament, Mats Löfström and Member of Parliament and flag expert Kimmo Kiljunen, discussed, among other things, the Åland flag and its symbolism. In the second part of the seminar, researchers Hanna Ojanen and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark discussed the international significance of Åland's special status and other aspects of Åland.

Facts on Åland 100

In 2021, it was 100 years since the Åland solution was developed within the League of Nations. The anniversary year lasts a whole year and on June 9, 2022, it is exactly 100 years since the Åland parliament met for the first time. The celebration of Åland 100 during

2021-2022 is being arranged in collaboration with the parliament, the municipalities and different authorities on Åland. The Åland Islands Peace Institute is also participating.





Conversations about democracy

In a broad collaboration between several organisations and voices from within and beyond Åland, the Åland Islands Peace Institute organised for International Democracy Day on 15 September talks on democratic engagement, a book launch, and workshops at Alan-dica. The idea was to draw attention to, and discuss, democracy.

The event was broadcast online and highlights from the day can be seen on our YouTube channel.

During the event, a newly published book 'Styr ålän-ningarna sitt öde? Demokratiperspektiv på Åland' was launched. In connection with the book launch, several of the book's contributors were there to discuss a range of issues around how we can promote democratic commitment and how it can be measured. Minister of Education Annika Hambrudd, chair of the Åland district Red Cross, Dan Sundqvist, and Johanna Fogelström-Duns, Discrimination Officer, also participated in the talks.

The day also included two workshops: one on how we can strengthen democratic commitment and the other on creating images for democracy. Participants in the first workshop were the Dialogue Foundation's CEO Laura Arikka together with Petra Granlund from the Peace Institute and in the second Emma Hemming, senior lecturer in language and communication at Högskolan på Åland.

The event was organised by the Åland Islands Peace Institute in broad collaboration with other organisations; The Åland government, the Democracywork21, Bärkraft, the Red Cross and Åland100.



Books we published during 2021

During the year 2021, the Peace Institute published two books in Swedish: one presenting an alternative perspective on Democracy on Åland; the other a presentation of the Åland solution, aimed at an audience without any previous knowledge of the subject.

Styr ålänningarna sitt eget öde? Demokratiperspektiv på Åland

Authors: Maria Ackrén, Bjarne Lindström, Calle Koskela, Petra Granholm, Åsa Gustafsson, Kenth Häggblom, Janne Holmén, Ida Hughes Tidlund, Ida Jansson, Richard Palmer, Sanna Roos, Susann Simolin, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Staffan Beijar.

Editor: Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark

The Åland Islands Peace Institute has been putting together a book on the theme of democracy, a project begun in 2019 and completed in 2021. In 12 chapters, the contributors to this volume bring us into an open conversation about democracy on Åland, where facts meet interpretation and where old questions are asked again in new ways. The chapters are illustrated by Elis Fogde's photographs from the Åland Museum's photo archive. The book is a publication of the Åland publishing house Cavannus.

Åland i tiden och världen

Author: Nina Fellman

Layout: Pia-Maria Norrmén

Advisory team: Annika Dahlblom, Pia-Maria Norrmén, Nina Fellman, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark och Liz Lindvall.

What does Åland and the unique Åland solution mean for all those who live here, and for the world today? This is the question that the book 'Åland i tiden och världen' wants to answer.

Åland Islands Peace Institute has, since its foundation 30 years ago, received questions and visits from near and far. Many want to learn about Åland and Åland's versatile relations with the outside world. It is precisely the questions and interest from the outside world that has formed a basis for the need to produce easily accessible material about Åland. This is a book based on both practical experience and solid research. The book is a collaboration between the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Åland museum. Photos and art from the Åland museum's collections provide additional dimensions and perspectives to the text.



We have re-launched the Lunch Seminars

To our great joy, in the autumn of 2021 we were able to open up again for our popular lunchtime seminars after the restrictions which had been imposed during the pandemic. There were two well-attended events: one with Lars Backström from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland, and the other with Anders Lidén, a member of our board and former Swedish diplomat in the Middle East, Africa and Finland.

On Wednesday 27 October, Lars Backström spoke in Hotel Arkipelag's restaurant about 'Which are the global megatrends of today?' The seminar was held in English and was visited by several newcomers to Åland who do not yet speak Swedish, but who would like to participate in important public discussions.

What are the biggest challenges facing humanity now and in the years to come? Climate change, environmental degradation, population growth, urbanisation, growing inequality, migration, our growing cyber-

dependence, indebtedness in the world economy, or are global governments failing? These were some of the issues raised.

Many questions and an active discussion

Imagination, empathy and reason – how can these qualities be used in the service of diplomacy? Can Åland benefit from such knowledge? On Tuesday, December 7, it was Anders Lidén - former Swedish diplomat in the Middle East, Africa and Finland and author of the book 'Diplomacy in practice' - who gave a lecture at Hotel Arkipelag. Lidén has, among other things, been head of Sweden's UN delegation in New York. He has also studied history and political science and he has over the years gathered extensive knowledge of the issues in the Middle East. He has a great deal of experience of peace negotiations and the UN Security Council. The lecture was appreciated by the visitors who actively participated in the discussions afterwards.



A high level of political interest – but lower trust

In the book 'Styr ålänningarna sitt öde? Demokratiperspektiv på Åland' (In English: Are the Ålanders in charge of their destiny? Democratic perspectives on Åland) Sanna Roos has endeavoured to describe levels of political interest and trust amongst Ålanders. Many are interested in what goes on in society, but it does not mean that the level of trust in the political institutions is high. Everything depends on who you ask.

The following interview with Sanna was made in connection with the book launch in order to highlight its particular themes.

During the last couple of years, the concrete opportunities citizens have for participation and influence have been diligently discussed among Nordic decision-makers, researchers and civil society representatives. There has been a concern that citizens' interest in politics has diminished, since the interest for what goes on within the political arena is a central prerequisite for the democratic system to work in an optimal way. Without interest and engagement from the people, the democratic system becomes fragile, polarised, and therefore also unstable.

On Åland, a Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland has been developed, which includes an aim to increase participation and influence among Ålanders. A survey of interpersonal trust on Åland was published by the Åland Bureau for Statistics and Research (ÅSUB) in cooperation with the Åland Islands Peace Institute in 2018. The survey showed that Ålanders in general are interested in what goes on in society. Almost three out of four between the ages of 16-85 read the news in the Ålandic papers at least five days a week. In addition, at least half of the Ålanders (62 per cent) follow the news-feed on Swedish radio and TV at least five days a week. But an interest in societal life does not automatically mean that there is trust in political institutions.

What do the Ålanders do in between elections?

Dr Sanna Roos holds a PhD in psychology and works as a researcher at ÅSUB. In her contribution to the book 'Styr ålänningarna sitt öde? Demokratiperspektiv på Åland' she takes a closer look at the results from the Åland trust study and asks herself: 'what motivates the Ålanders to actively engage in society? What does active citizenship look like on Åland?'

'From the trust study we know that younger people aren't as keen to vote in general elections as older citizens are, and that more men than women are interested in politics', she says.

Sanna Roos' voice is soft, but it increases in strength when she talks about the study. Her engagement shows as she gestures with her pen on the page whilst talking about her results.

She says that the so-called 'inter-elections activities', such as petitions and demonstrations, have made it possible for citizens to exert an influence 'from below' and that social media have made it possible for citizens to participate in different forms of inter-election democratic activities such as online petitions. Yet this is not very commonly done on Åland.



What most citizens do here actively is to boycott, i.e. avoid buying certain goods.

'Almost every second person among the respondents had boycotted something during the last twelve months. Almost half had volunteered within a third sector organisation or association. On the other hand, it is not as common on Åland to sign a petition, or use and display campaign material such as a badge. And only a few of the respondents had participated in legal demonstrations during the last twelve months.'

With her background in psychology, Sanna is aware that many studies in psychology highlight the connection between participation in society and psychosocial health. It appears that participation strengthens an individual's sense of belonging and gives us a sense of meaning in life.

In her text she takes a closer look at this. She profiles citizens into four types: the politically integrated, the sceptics, the loyal and the politically alienated. The same typology has previously been used by, among others, Maria Oskarson in a study of political citizenship in Sweden.

Which type do you belong to?

A politically integrated person has a great interest in politics and a strong trust in political institutions. In total every fourth Ålander, 24 per cent, is politically integrated according to the material in the Åland trust study.

'The group is relatively evenly spread between women and men. It is often the older citizens of Åland that fulfil the profile for the politically integrated, and the average age in this group is 56 years. The politically integrated also have a relatively secure position in Åland society thanks to a high level education and stable socio-economical resources', Sanna says, and proceeds to describe the different profiles:

'The sceptic profile is similar to the politically integrated. Only three per cent report that they have been unemployed during the last five years, compared to nine per cent among the politically integrated. However, the economic situation of the sceptic compares unfavourably with the politically integrated.'

Sanna tells us about the third group, 'the loyal': 'First and foremost, they contribute with stability and continuity in the democratic system. They show a weak interest in politics, but a high level of trust in political institutions. A total of 26 per cent of Ålanders belong to the loyal category and among these women are over-represented. The loyal are relatively young and the average age in this group is 48 years. More than half of the loyal have educational qualifications equivalent to senior secondary school or elementary school level.

'Approximately every tenth person within the loyal category has experienced unemployment the last five years, which is more than among the other profiles', she adds, and continues:

'While the sceptics are of the opinion that their own financial situation has worsened, a relatively large number of the loyal have found an improvement in their financial situation during the last twelve months.

The loyal are also somewhat less active as citizens, compared to the other profiles.'

Sanna then turns to the 'politically alienated'; people who can be seen as being outside political life, with neither interest nor trust in political institutions - a theme she dwells upon for some time:

'They represent a total of 23 per cent of Ålanders and are both women and men who are often somewhat younger than the representatives of the other profiles. The average age among the politically alienated is 50 years and more than half of the respondents have an education equivalent to senior secondary school (47 per cent) or elementary school (24 per cent).' Sanna thinks it is interesting that many of them report a worsened financial situation over the last twelve months, compared to the other profiles.

'Another thing worth noticing is that the politically alienated have been relatively active citizens and are also somewhat more engaged in societal activities than for instance, the loyal. Every third politically engaged person has volunteered during the last twelve months, and almost every fifth has used or displayed some form of campaign material. It is also more common among the alienated to sign a petition and to boycott than among the loyal.'



The Åland mediation office: Increased Awareness

At the mediation office, the coronavirus pandemic has affected the number of initiated cases so that there have been fewer mediations than during the years before the pandemic. Especially during the spring of 2021, the number of cases referred by the police, the prosecutor, other authorities and private persons was small. However, during the summer, this number was somewhat normalised. This meant that the total number of referred cases during the year was 32, in comparison to 33 in 2020 and 59 in 2019. Of these referred initiatives during 2021, almost all were mediated, which is above average.

The focus throughout the year has been on letting the new mediators, who took the basic mediation course in 2020, mediate their first cases together with experienced tutor mediators. Four get-togethers for mediators have been held, including a nationwide development day for mediators in Swedish, with mediators from the rest of the country digitally. During the autumn, a roleplay exercise was conducted in order to keep mediation competency active.

The mediation office has also used the time to increase the visibility of mediation and restorative justice through, among other things, an interview on the commercial radio channel Steel Fm and rolling radio commercials. The Peace Institute's information intern Eleonora Drugg saw to it that the mediation office home page was refreshed. Ads were also placed in all municipal newsletters on Åland, which led to the publication of an article about mediation in a local Åland paper.

Cooperation with the police, prosecutor and victim support agencies are always prioritised and also this year, a joint meeting with these actors was held. Apart from this, the head of mediation and the mediation officer

participated in the Åland police department's development days, which means that the mediation office has been able to inform the entire police department of Åland about mediation.

In cooperation with the bärkraft.ax network, a digital breakfast seminar was held on the topic of peer mediation in schools. The Verso programme, from the mainland, presented the concept, and the school of Höjden, which has introduced peer mediation, participated to give a practical example. Invited staff from schools around Åland showed interest in peer mediation and another information seminar is planned for early 2022. Even though the mediation office has not been at its most active during the years of the pandemic, the mediation field on Åland has been broadened by means of increased visibility, newly active mediators and extended cooperation. Hopefully this will bear fruit in the years to come!

Mediation is a free service available to everyone in Finland, as stipulated by the Mediation Act of 2005.

Since 2006, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has, through the Åland Mediation Office, been a provider of mediation services by agreement with THL.

Mediation can be seen as complement to the legal process and a way for the concerned parties to have a say and acquire an understanding of what has happened and its consequences.

During 2021, the Åland mediation office personnel consisted of Petra Granholm, Head of Mediation, on 30%, and Mirjam Lukola, Mediation Officer, on 20%.



The staff and interns

The best thing this year has been that our staff have managed to stay healthy and have had the energy to continuously adapt to the demands of a process of digitalisation necessitated by the conditions of the pandemic.

Continuity and knowledge development have been the fruits of our labour at the Peace Institute. The staff are highly motivated and ambitious, and it is especially important to ensure that there is time enough for rest and recovery. During the year the administration has followed up vacations taken. For many years key elements in our stated aim include providing a context in which it is easy to combine family life and work.

The pandemic has passed through different phases and the national rules and recommendations have needed to be revised. The institute has been in regular contact with authorities in charge to clarify what are the current rules. Digital fatigue has, in

fact, affected most of us. It has been a challenge not to let the demands of work encroach into private life and to be alert to potential issues arising even though we are not seeing each other in real life at a coffee break or during the lunch hour.

The Peace Institute has comprehensive planning days twice a year. During those days the working plan for the current year is followed up and plans for the following year are made. During those occasions we have also followed up on employment conditions. Beyond these long-term discussions the staff meetings every other week and the coffee breaks (mostly digitally during the pandemic) allow us to follow up on everyday work.

Despite the pandemic the Åland Islands Peace Institute has been privileged to have five interns during this year, including two digital language interns. It is a significant effort and makes a valued contribution to the institute.

The Peace Institute 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 (on leave)

Linn Simonsson, Project Manager Kastelholm Talks and Åland100

John Knight, Librarian and Archivist

Liz Lindvall, Deputy Information Officer

This year's interns

Esther Djupsund. Internship at the Åland Peace Institute from February til April. She is studying the Master's Degree Programme in International Law and Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University. During her internship she has assisted in the preparations for the digital version of the Kastelholm Talks as well as other media-related assignments.

Anna Jackson. Swedish-language intern in spring at the Peace Institute. Anna Jackson is from Great Britain where she has worked for a charity that helped other charities. She has helped with language review and proof-reading.

Milene Bruhn. Research internship from August til October. During the internship, she assisted in the creation of an interactive map of the Åland example in the world.

Karolina Kraska Pineyro. A digital Swedish language intern during the autumn. Karolina graduated with a title of Master of Arts, specialisation in graphic design. She has helped with tasks related to design.

Eleonora Drugge. Information internship during the autumn. She is studying international law and human rights at Åbo Akademi University and is a creative person who likes to be engaged in tasks related to communication and media.



Milene helped create the digital map

One of our interns in 2021 was Milene Bruhn. She is originally from Brazil, but is currently studying for a master's degree in peace research and international relations at the University of Tübingen in Germany. During her time with us, she helped create the interactive map of how the Åland example is used in the world.

Tell us, why did you apply for an internship at the Åland Islands Peace Institute?

Tell us, why did you apply for an internship at the Åland Islands Peace Institute?

'I had never heard of Åland before I applied for the internship. The ad showed in my feed and I got interested about what kind of archipelago this could be. When you were looking for a research intern I thought that it would suit me perfectly.'

What did you get to do?

'I got to help find information about the different places that occur on the digital map of the Åland example. I got to read a lot; various research texts, and learned about different areas of conflict in the world which I did not know much about before.'

What did you think about the internship?

'Nowadays, I am Åland's number 1 fan. I came to you in August and stayed until October. In Germany where I study, there were at that point in time many restrictions because of the pandemic, but on Åland the situation was ok then, and I got sort of a nice break from it all. In addition, I have never felt so secure in my whole life. Åland is a small society and I enjoyed the calm, the closeness to nature and the Scandinavian lifestyle.'

'Concerning my studies I acquired new resources and knowledge that I have already benefitted from. It was nice to get to know everyone at the Peace Institute and help with something as concrete as the map. I also got to participate in ReGenerationweek, which was very interesting and fun.'

We have launched a map of the Åland Example

Åland is an example of many different things: A peaceful solution to a potentially violent conflict. A autonomous region under constant development. The 'Islands of Peace' with their demilitarisation and neutralisation. An archipelago with a strong regional identity. Among many other things.

Over the years, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has researched and worked with its various aspects and we have seen that there is great deal of international interest in the Åland example. Individuals and groups visit Finland, Åland and the Åland Islands Peace Institute to learn more about this example. The Åland example is

discussed around the world.

Where? How? We can now show you this with the help of a digital map of the Åland example's use in the world, which is now available on our website www.peace.ax. There you can have a look at it, click and read about some of the different regions and conflict areas that have shown interest.

Fredsfast 2021

The Åland Islands Peace Institute's Fredsfast AB has carried out planned maintenance work during the financial year in accordance with the company's renovation plan.

Just in time for the summer, the long-awaited bicycle roof was ready, which also houses the property's rubbish bins. During the late autumn, the old entrance on the courtyard side was replaced with a new entrance staircase and a new front door.

The board of Fredsfast AB are the chairman and also CEO of the company, 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 Islands Peace Institute on 20.04.2021.



The Åland Islands Peace Institute's finances 2021

The basic funding that the Åland Islands Peace Institute receives by application from the Åland government provides stability to the institute's basic functions. It also enables the development of new projects and applications for additional funding from other sources, for, for instance, research, projects and other new initiatives. There is a constant need for long-term planning and diversified funding to ensure the sustainability of staffing and basic functions. A new four-year framework agreement for the years 2022-2025 between the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Åland government is important in this regard and discussions on the matter have been initiated during the year 2021.

In 2021, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has received operational and project support from e.g. The Government of Åland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Cultural Foundation and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Collaborations with partners in the Nordic countries and Europe have resulted in revenues in the form of services sold and project support.

During the year, various projects were run alongside the basic operations. Among the projects were Kastelholm Talks 2021 and several steps and components in the analysis and celebration of the Åland solution's 100 years. The cancellation or postponement of some trips and events due to the pandemic has meant somewhat reduced spending within their respective budgetary lines over the year.

About a quarter of the Peace Institute's funding comes from funders outside Åland. The total revenue was 407,250 euros. Revenue for the office and administration amounted to EUR 225,592 and expenses for the office and administration were EUR 224,700. The total costs for 2021 were EUR 395,778, including EUR 20,023 in partner and bank interest costs. The result for 2021 is a surplus of 11,472 euros. The Peace Institute has had an accumulated deficit which has now been reduced by the corresponding surplus amount for 2021. Liquidity during the year has been good.

Revenues

Åland Government / PAF	€	229 000	56 %
Other revenues (project, sales etc)	€	75 645	19 %
THL	€	39 232	10 %
Ministry of Justice	€	25 000	6 %
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	€	25 000	6 %
Nordic Council of Ministers	€	8 372	2 %
Åland Culture Foundation	€	5 000	1 %
<i>Amount:</i>		€	407 250
			100 %

Costs

Basic functions	€	224 777	60 %
Åland 100 & Democracy Proj.	€	45 474	12 %
Kastelholm Talks on Peace	€	34 731	9 %
Mediation Office	€	32 500	9 %
EU-project	€	24 686	7 %
E-course Ålex	€	13 587	4 %
<i>Amount:</i>		€	375 755
			100 %

Newsletter

The Peace Institute sends free newsletters by e-mail to subscribers 4-5 times a year. To subscribe 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 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 individuals be they 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 work. The presentation,

including discussions, takes up to an hour and is offered in Swedish or English, mainly by our information managers and the research coordinator. For longer or in-depth lectures and workshops, the Peace Institute charges a fee.

The Peace Fund

Donations can be made to:

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The institute's brochures in Swedish, English and Russian.



Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies

Insights into Autonomy, Demilitarisation, and Minority Protection



Jass –a channel for autonomy research

Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies – JASS – is the Peace Institute e-journal that has been published in five volumes so far, each of two issues. The over-arching themes of JASS are peace and security, which are seen from the perspectives of autonomy, demilitarisation and minority protection.

Bringing these perspectives together, the editorial team of JASS strive to raise new insights in an ever more complex world where decision-making is made on different levels. In 2021, the journal highlighted comparative autonomy research and constitutional arrangements

featuring Africa. Kjell-Åke Nordquist is Editor-in-Chief and Petra Granholm Managing Editor and together with the Peace Institute Research Council, they make up the editorial team of JASS. JASS is included in Directory of Open Access Journals (doaj.org) and is published through Open Journal Systems (OJS).

All articles go through double blind peer review before publication. The editors also welcome other kinds of material such as book reviews, research notes and commentaries. Are you interested in writing for JASS? Get in touch at www.jass.ax!



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