



Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI)

ACTION PLAN 2026

Approved by Plenum on 16 December 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI) acts as a parliamentary forum that organises and promotes dialogue on security policy, homeland defence and preparedness for crisis situations and emergencies among NGOs, decision-makers, authorities, the media and experts. The ABDI monitors general preparedness for crises and emergencies in society and studies the related needs with a special focus on communications. It helps civil society organisations and the media to develop their expertise and competence in security policy, homeland defence and preparedness. The ABDI commissions and publishes surveys on the views of citizens in areas of security policy, homeland defence and crisis awareness. It assists the authorities in preparing to conduct research in crisis situations and emergencies. It also pursues close cooperation at the Nordic level, especially with partners in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

By bringing together a broad spectrum of actors, the ABDI sees its role and activities as a security policy forum as highly important. It follows actively current debate on security policy and crisis communications and builds its seminars and training on this basis. The year 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the the ABDI.

The current ABDI was appointed by the Government on 7 September 2023. Its term will continue until the next ABDI, appointed after the next parliamentary elections, begins its term. The ABDI is chaired by MP *Jarno Limnell* (National Coalition Party), while Parliamentary Assistant *Marika Sorja* (Finns Party) and MP *Tuula Väättäinen* (Finnish Social Democratic Party) act as Vice-Chairs.

The ABDI may appoint a Work Branch and expert divisions from among its members and designate a chairperson and a necessary number of members to them. In addition to the Work Branch, the current ABDI has three sub-committees: the Education and Organisation Branch, the Media Branch and the Research Branch.

RESEARCH

Based on a Government Decree, the ABDI is tasked to commission and publish studies regarding the public opinion on security policy and homeland defence and the psychological resilience of citizens. It will commission an opinion survey in 2026.

The ABDI keeps track of opinion polls carried out in Sweden, Norway and elsewhere in the areas of security policy, defence policy and military defence.

SEMINARS

The ABDI organises thematic seminars for decision-makers and representatives of the media, NGOs and the authorities. The purpose of the seminars is to provide background information on topical issues, regarding security policy, homeland defence and crisis preparedness, in particular.

The ABDI will hold a seminar to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

As is its custom, the ABDI will organise a seminar for journalists at the end of the year in Helsinki.

The ABDI's regional events will be open to the general public. Each event will include an expert address and a panel discussion on foreign and security policy. Political parties representing the local

electoral district in Parliament will be invited to assign participants to the panel. This year, the regional events will take place in Rovaniemi and Vaasa.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The ABDI will continue to cooperate with the organisers of the national defence courses. It will suggest media representatives and researchers who could be invited to attend the courses. The ABDI Chair is a full member of the Advisory Board for National Defence Education (MONK), while the Secretary General is a deputy member.

The ABDI will continue its cooperation with the Defence Command Finland's Public Information Division to organise a basic course in communications. In recent years, this course has been organised once a year. Defence Command Finland is responsible for the training. The ABDI recruits for the course persons who have not completed military service. The next recruitment process will start in spring 2026. Defence Command Finland recruits reservists for the course based on its needs.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The ABDI continues its close cooperation with its sister organisations in other Nordic countries and especially with Folk och Försvar in Sweden, Folk og Forsvar in Norway and Folk & Sikkerhed in Denmark.

The next Nordic conference will be held in Bergen, Norway, on 19–21 May 2026.

As a rule, the ABDI's visits abroad will continue to be part of the Work Branch's activities. During the year, the ABDI is planning to visit an organisation or site in Europe pertinent to the ABDI's activities.

FINANCES

The appropriation allocated for the ABDI in 2026 is EUR xx. The Work Branch decides the allocation of the appropriation between different functions.

ABDI OFFICE

The office of the Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI) is at the Ministry of Defence, Eteläinen Makasiinikatu 8, Helsinki, second floor. Administratively, it has been attached to the Media and Communications Unit since 2017.

Markus Kinkku, M.Pol.Sc, acts as ABDI Secretary General. *Laura Renvall*, M.Pol.Sc, MA Mus, serves as Assistant Secretary General.

Jaana Riihimaa, Communications Secretary, handles the ABDI's payment transactions.