

# North Savo Comprehensive Security Cluster

Project Lead, PhD Harriet Lonka, North Savo Regional Council

*“Nordic co-operation in the new world order”*

MTS Nordic Conference in Kuopio 22.-24.9.2025



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama

# My background

- PhD in Legislative Studies 2016 *Governmental Security Strategy Work as a shaper of Legislation*
- Licentiate in Public Administration, M.Sc. in Geology and Mineralogy
- Over 25 years working experience as a business director, consultant, and researcher in the fields of risk management, preparedness and security studies
- Secretary General in EU Commission project *Prevention of Natural and Technological Disasters* 2000-2002
- Recent projects:
  - Academy of Finland project IRWIN – Information Resilience in a Wicked Environment 2020-2023
  - Evaluation of National Emergency Supply Agency 2020-2021



harriet.lonka@pohjois-savo.fi  
+358 400 755 475



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama

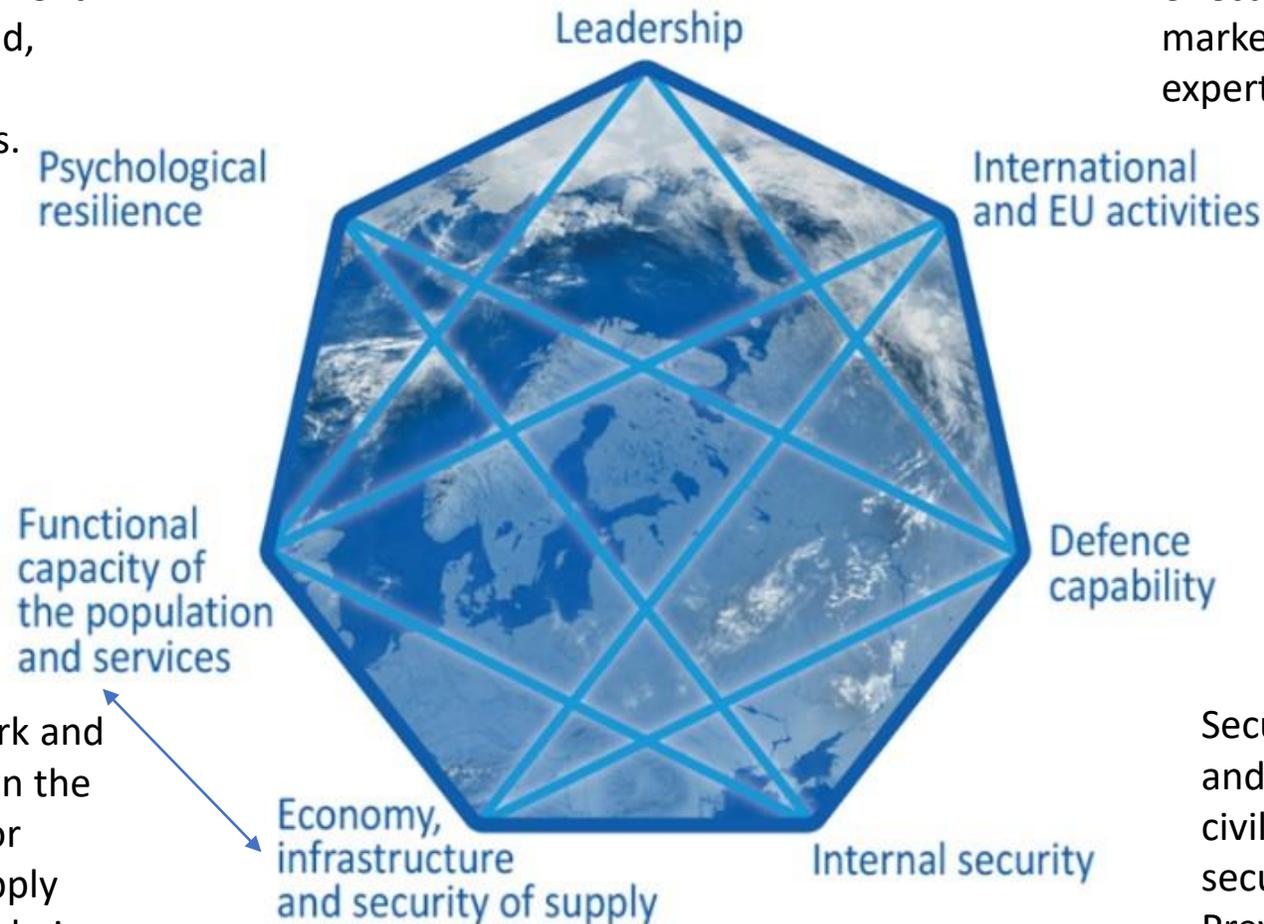
# Regional Comprehensive Security Cluster and Comprehensive Security in Society

The security cluster creates confidence in the development potential of Eastern Finland, which strengthens trust in society and the authorities.

Strengthening the coordination of/ between authoritative actions and business life to ensure the population's livelihood and the availability of services.

**Emphasis:** The regional economy is reformed by directing development work and RDI resources to strengthen the business life's resistance for change, the security of supply brought by regional value chains and the operational capacity of critical infrastructures.

## THE FUNCTIONS VITAL FOR SOCIETY



The security cluster enables the effective internationalization and marketing of comprehensive security, expertise and business operations.

Defense needs will be taken into account in regional development; the defense-related capabilities of companies will be surveyed.

Security of supply of expertise and developments in the field of civil protection; a stronger security dimension in foresight. Prevention of environmental and natural damage.

# Spreadheads of Regional Business Development in North Savo



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama



**- Now is the time for heightened readiness  
to build resilience -**



**Pohjois-Savon liitto**



**KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI**



**Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama**

## White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030

Upholding peace in Europe lies at the heart of the EU's mission for Member States and the EU, this means taking concrete steps for defence.

🕒 21.03.2025    👤 [Strategic Communications](#)

## Preparedness Union Strategy: reinforcing Europe's resilience in a changing world

To ensure the sustainable security and welfare of its citizens, the European Union is proposing additional measures, under the Preparedness Union Strategy, to better anticipate, prevent, and respond to a range of risks and threats, including cyberattacks, sabotage and disinformation campaigns and the impact of climate change.

🕒 25.03.2025    👤 [Strategic Communications](#)

17.10.2024



## Comprehensive Security Cluster North Savo

**Kuopio, Finland** / cluster

*Advanced materials, Energy, Health/Bio-sciences, Photonics, Robotics, aerial and space based sensor systems e.g. for environmental monitoring - multispectral (visible and infrared imaging), laser based and lidar systems, Comprehensive safety and security, Smart secure societies, Dual Technologies, Smart Specialisation Strategy, RIS3 / RIS4, Augmented / Virtual Reality, 3D Printing, IoT, Big Data, Autonomous systems and artificial intelligence, Optics, R&D, Vehicles & Vessels, Energy and ICT, SMEs, Renewable energy, Digital transformation, Materials and components, Simulation and training*

The Comprehensive Security Cluster North Savo is a regionally operating cluster connecting stakeholders on a multi-disciplinary and multi-actor platform. Creating the cluster is a strategic initiative by the North Savo Regional Council, a regional public authority comprising 19 municipalities in Eastern Finland. The long-term aim is to cultivate collaboration and knowledge sharing within and between the six regions in Eastern Finland, as well as creating national-level impact.

North Savo's defined Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) priorities align with core elements of building and maintaining a secure and resilient region, such as Machine and Energy Technology, Food Systems, Wellbeing Technology, Smart Water Systems, and Bio and Circular Economy. Comprehensive Security has been selected as one of the four cross-cutting S3 themes. Improving defence and dual-use related industry capabilities in regional networks is a central focus of this cross-cutting theme.

Aligned with the Finnish Comprehensive Security model and NATO's Multi Domain Operations concept, the Comprehensive Security Cluster aims at regionally safeguarding the vital functions of society. The central focus is strengthening the economy, infrastructure, and security of supply at the regional level. North Savo's economy is reformed by cluster activities since they steer development work and RDI resources, aiming to improve business life's adaptability to change, the security of supply in regional value chains, and the operational capacity of critical infrastructures. The cluster enables effective internationalization and access to comprehensive security related expertise and solutions.

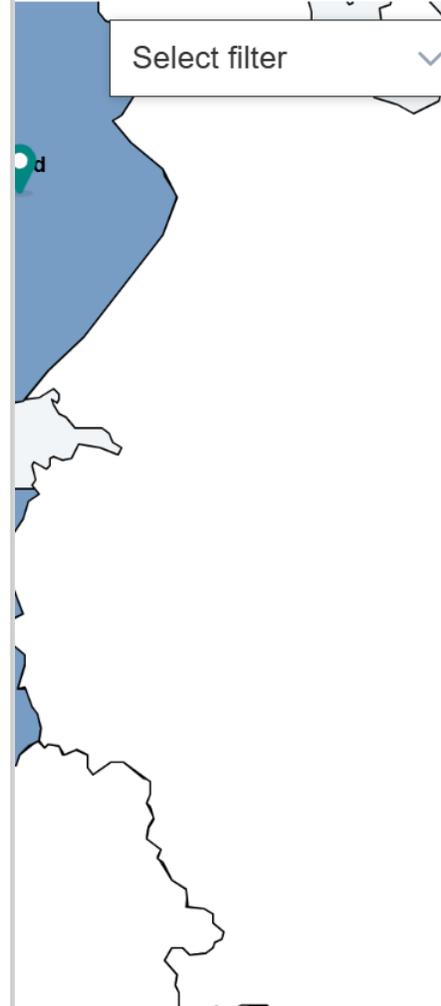
The North Savo region undertakes robust foresight activities to ensure effective strategic planning and actionable roadmaps based on data and evidence. The Comprehensive Security Cluster strengthens the regional business ecosystems which are formed around the strong cutting-edge companies in, for example, Machine and Energy Technology and Food Systems. These business ecosystems form a core for the region's vital impact on National Security. Other regional spreadheads, such as Smart Water Systems, Wellbeing Technology, and Bio and Circular Economy function interconnectedly with these core activities. The strong academic and applied research, especially in the fields of photonics, toxicology, and boarder studies, form a robust foundation for knowledge driven development of cluster activities.

In addition to regional level activities, the cluster is involved in cross-regional and national initiatives related to building resilience and comprehensive security in Finland. The over-arching vision is to bring Finnish competence in the field to an international level together with other regions and national actors.

[LOGIN TO DASHBOARD](#)

[EU FUNDING](#) [JOIN ENDR](#)

Select filter



North Savo's defined Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) priorities align with core elements of building and maintaining a secure and resilient region, such as Machine and Energy Technology, Food Systems, Wellbeing Technology, Smart Water Systems, and Bio and Circular Economy. Comprehensive Security has been selected as one of the four cross-cutting S3 themes. Improving defence and dual-use related industry capabilities in regional networks is a central focus of this cross-cutting theme.

Aligned with the Finnish Comprehensive Security model and NATO's Multi Domain Operations concept, the Comprehensive Security Cluster aims at regionally safeguarding the vital functions of society. The central focus is strengthening the economy, infrastructure, and security of supply at the regional level. North Savo's economy is reformed by cluster activities since they steer development work and RDI resources, aiming to improve business life's adaptability to change, the security of supply in regional value chains, and the operational capacity of critical infrastructures. The cluster enables effective internationalization and access to comprehensive security related expertise and solutions.



# Focus Elements for Operationalizing Comprehensive Security in Regional Development

- Knowledge-based management
- Improved security of supply of different business fields
- Security of supply of knowledge and know-how
- Regional value chains
- Internal regional cohesion
- Cooperation between companies, the public sector, education and research actors



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama



## **BASIC PRINCIPLE**

**Preparedness is based on careful  
management of normal conditions**



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama

# Example: Animal Husbandry in the framework of Finnish Comprehensive Security Concept

*Psychological resilience*

Education and knowledge base

*Functional capacity of the population and services*

Income and wellbeing of farmers

*Economy, infrastructure and security of supply*

*Leadership*

Agricultural Policy



Farm income,  
Energy and water supply,  
Production inputs

*International and EU activities*

EU Common Agricultural Policy

*Defence capability*

Security of Supply for Military Forces

*Internal security*

Cyber Security of Farms  
Crime Risks e.g. Human Trafficking



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama

by Harriet Lonka 2024

# Steps in Building North Savo Comprehensive Security Cluster as part of the European Cluster Policy



# Thank you!

KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN KLUSTERI



Pohjois-Savon liitto



KOKONAISTURVALLISUUDEN  
KLUSTERI



Euroopan unionin  
osarahoittama