



## Advisory Board for Defence Information (ABDI)

### ACTION PLAN 2025

**Approved by the Work Branch on 10 December 2024**

#### GENERAL

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 crisis situations and emergencies in society and studies the related needs with a special focus on communications. It helps NGOs 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. Together with Sweden and Norway, the ABDI is active in Nordic cooperation.

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 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 Vätäinen* (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 2025.

At the start of the year, the Research Branch will meet with the Work Branch in an internal workshop to discuss the ABDI's opinion survey and the potential need to revise the existing set of questions, bearing in mind that any changes should be carefully considered and measured.

The ABDI keeps track of opinion polls carried out in Sweden, Norway and NATO 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.

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. The next regional event is scheduled to be held in Kouvola.

## **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's Public Information Division to organise basic course in communications. In recent years, this course has been organised once a year. The Defence Command 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 2025. The Defence Command recruits reservists for the course based on its needs.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

The ABDI will continue its close cooperation with similar organisations in other Nordic countries and especially with *Folk och Försvar* in Sweden and *Folk og Forsvar* in Norway.

A Nordic conference will be organised in Finland in 2025. A meeting in preparation of the conference between the secretariats is planned to take place in Helsinki.

In addition to Nordic conferences, the ABDI has usually made one visit abroad during its term. These will continue to be part of the Work Branch's activities.

## **FINANCES**

The appropriation allocated for the ABDI in 2025 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. It has been attached to the Media and Communications Unit since 2017.

*Markus Kinkku*, M.Pol.Sc, acts as ABDI General Secretary. *Laura Renvall*, M.Soc.Sc., will act as Administrative Assistant until 30 April 2025.

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