



Hanaholmen, 4 January 2021

## The Hanaholmen Initiative – a new programme that promotes cooperation between Sweden and Finland in preparation for and management of civil crises

In recent years, Sweden and Finland have successfully built up a solid cooperation within military defence. This has occurred in response to the security interests the two countries have jointly identified. This cooperation has developed gradually, on the basis of a deeper mutual knowledge of each other's defence structures.

The inclusion of civil sectors is considered an obvious necessity in the development of defence cooperation, and as a natural next step in bilateral defence and crisis preparedness cooperation.

As of 2021 Hanaholmen, the Swedish-Finnish Cooperation and Cultural Centre, will be responsible for a new cross-sector crisis preparedness program in cooperation with the Swedish Defence University in Sweden and the Security Committee in Finland. Its purpose is to strengthen civil preparedness capabilities in both countries. Dialogue with representatives of Sweden's and Finland's governments, agencies, and other sectors of society in the summer and autumn of 2020 has confirmed the program's relevance.

Work with the new crisis preparedness program, which includes both a **high-level forum** and a **training element**, shall commence immediately. The first bilateral and cross-sectoral meeting will take place in the autumn of 2021.

### Why a new initiative for crisis preparedness?

The new crisis preparedness program is initiated primarily in order to **strengthen the cross-sector, bilateral cooperation within civil preparedness**. The military cooperation between Sweden and Finland has developed and deepened in recent years, and even within civil preparedness several initiatives have been started.

Bilateral crisis preparedness is now being developed one step further by involving all important sectors of society in one and the same program. The new initiative should be seen as a complement to current agency cooperation, not as a replacement effort.

### **Who is behind and supports the program?**

The Swedish-Finnish Cultural Foundation and the foundation's bilateral cooperation centre, Hanaholmen, are the initiators. The program has been developed in collaboration with the Swedish Defence University and Finland's Security Committee and been anchored together with former ambassadors Anders Ljunggren and Peter Stenlund. Through a round of surveys, the initiative has received strong backing from the Swedish and Finnish governments, central agencies and organisations, as well as the business community. The program builds further on the Nordic Council's and the Nordic Prime Ministers' recommendations to develop cooperation within crisis preparedness so that it meets today's challenges. Under Finland's chairmanship in the Nordic Council of Ministers 2021, a particular emphasis will be placed on security of supply. Cooperation on the Nordic level cannot, however, meet all of the specific challenges that exist bilaterally between neighbouring countries. Expanded bilateral collaboration can also mark the start of a broader Nordic cooperation.

### **In what way does this initiative differ from other similar crisis preparedness programs in the Nordics?**

The program shall build further on different existing sectoral collaborations, such as the Haga cooperation within the rescue sector and the Svalbard cooperation within healthcare. What's new about the Hanaholmen Initiative is its breadth and potential to encompass all parts of society, including civil society and the business community. This is because civil security is largely dependent on private activities and business efforts. Voluntary efforts through established civic organisations and ad hoc groups are often crucial when it comes to managing emergency situations within the population. Voluntary efforts can also be cross-border.

### **What do the terms crisis preparedness and security of supply imply?**

Crisis preparedness and security of supply cover several areas. This can include everything from climate-related crises such as fires and floods to cyber threats and global pandemics, such as the ongoing coronavirus crisis. In order to manage the crises in the best way, there should be an efficient, solid contact network between different sectors of society, clear and open communication, a clear distribution of

responsibility and well-equipped emergency stockpiles, as well as excellent logistics that allow the smooth delivery of medication and other necessities, for example. All planning should be carefully done in advance, because when a crisis hits, there is seldom the time or opportunity to create new and functioning forms of cooperation.

### **How is the EU involved?**

The development of civil preparedness and protection collaboration on an EU level is particularly significant for both Sweden and Finland. Bilateral collaboration can gain support from both resources and political EU influence. In order to create minimal vulnerability within areas such as material handling, transport and logistics, efforts are required on several levels: nationally, bilaterally and on a Nordic and EU level. Sweden and Finland can join forces to ensure that free trade and the EU's internal market function even in times of crisis.

### **Why Finland and Sweden and not all of the Nordics?**

In the first instance, a broadened bilateral collaboration between Sweden and Finland in regard to civil crises is natural in terms of the cooperation already established for military security. Although the Nordic countries appear similar in many aspects, there are also differences in terms of structure within the public and private sectors. A first step is therefore to start with two Nordic countries, Sweden and Finland, instead of all five countries simultaneously. It also speeds up the work process. The other Nordic countries are always welcome to participate in the program, but the current arrangement is to take it step by step.

### **Why have a collaboration with the Defence University in Sweden?**

The Swedish Defence University is a leader in Sweden in terms of training and research in defence, crisis management and security. The Swedish Defence University has a close collaboration with all agencies, organisations and the business community within the framework of training and research. The Swedish Defence University also has a very long tradition of so-called high-level training through the Solbacka courses, strategic management training, etc. The university also offers well-established teaching of scenario-based pedagogy, which is necessary for this advanced training level.

The Swedish Defence University's high-level training within total defence:

[www.fhs.se/utbildning/det-har-kan-du-studera/sok-utbildning.html?standardSort=Anm%C3%A4lan](http://www.fhs.se/utbildning/det-har-kan-du-studera/sok-utbildning.html?standardSort=Anm%C3%A4lan)

## What will the new program look like?

The program will contribute to developing comprehensive societal security in both countries through bilateral cooperation. The goal is to be strategic and long-lasting.

The crisis preparedness program will have two mainstays: one is an annual **high-level forum**, the other is annual **training**. The program is aimed at key persons involved in strategic decision-making, from different sectors and who handle civil crisis preparedness and protection. Synergies with military cooperation must be ensured.

The **high-level forum** will gather central decision-makers within civil preparedness and protection. The forum is aimed at decision-makers on national, regional and local levels as well as other important preparedness actors, such as persons from the business community, civil society, mass media and the university world (researchers), and with ministers from both countries as keynote speakers. Participants in the training element shall also contribute in the forum. The first high-level forum is arranged for late autumn 2021. The goal is that the high-level Forum will address observations and recommendations that have come up during implementation of the training programme.

The **training** is an advanced course and consists of two modules (three days each), of which one will take place in Finland and one in Sweden. A course is suggested to consist of 20-30 participants, equally distributed between both countries and with different backgrounds. Recruitment will take place during the first half of 2021, and the first training session will run in the autumn of the same year. In addition to personal leadership development, participants in the training will also identify necessary future collaborations across sectors and national borders in order to cope with future crises. The training will be in English in order to get broad and relevant participation from both countries, and will be evaluated continuously.

## Is there an official name for the crisis preparedness programme?

The program is called The Hanaholmen Initiative. This is to link the programme to the initiator and the place where the training and high-level forums will primarily take place.