

RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY INSTITUTE



Co-funded by the
European Union



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Contact: Dr Jaanika Puusalu
Head of Research Centre
jaanika.puusalu@sisekaitse.ee

RESEARCH GROUP ON COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SOCIETAL RESILIENCE

The research group is developing a scientific understanding of how to strengthen Estonia's resilience under conditions of military, hybrid, and long-term complex crises. It focuses on the societal dimension of comprehensive national defence: the role of civil structures, communities, and the private sector in supporting internal security.

The focus is on three integrated areas:

- community crisis preparedness and mutual support,
- digitally empowered national resilience and modelling the dependency relationships of critical infrastructure,
- the institutional structure and cooperation arrangements of comprehensive national defence. The goal is to develop a holistic model suitable for Estonia that combines role clarity, training needs, and interoperability mechanisms.

Current projects: „GUARDIANS“ (2025–2029);
„Inimeste kriisivalmiduse tõstmine“ (2025–2027);
„Ühiskonnaliikmete rollijaotus laiapindse riigikaitse
siseturvalisuse valdkonna ülesannete toetamisel – Eestile
sobiva mudeli arendamine“ (2026–2027)

ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION RESEARCH GROUP

The multidisciplinary research group focuses on the systematic and scientific study of the societal impacts of organized crime and corruption. The group combines expertise from criminology, political science, sociology, law, and economics to provide a comprehensive view of both local and international manifestations of organized crime and corruption. The group's goal is to understand how organized crime and corruption develop and to provide scientifically-based and practically applicable knowledge to policymakers, the public sector, and society at large.

Main research areas:

- The nature, dynamics, and structure of organized crime.
- Mechanisms of corruption and their impact on state functioning.



- Points of contact between the legal and illegal economy.
- Prevention strategies for organized crime and corruption and evidence-based policy measures.

The research group's activities are partially funded by the ISF project (ISF.1.03.23-0011 Internal Security Academy Competence Centre (01.01.2023–31.08.2029).

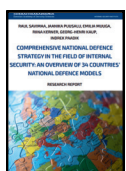
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



The Impact of
Russia's
Alternative
Future
Developments
on Estonian
Security



Forecast of
global trends
affecting
Estonia's
internal security
2026-2030



Comprehensive
National Defence
Strategy in the
Field of Internal
Security: an
Overview of 34
Countries'
National Defence
Models



Security Threats to
the Undersea
Connections
Related Critical
Infrastructure of
the Baltic States:
Baltic Sea in the
Focus of Hybrid
Warfare



ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Security
Spectrum



Turvalisuskompass



HYBRID THREATS RESEARCH GROUP

The research group focuses on modern and emerging hybrid threats affecting Estonia's (internal) security and the development of knowledge-based countermeasures. This includes analyzing threats stemming from Estonia's strategic location, global political shifts, geo-economic developments and conflicts. The research focus is the conceptual and operational development of hybrid threats in information environments, including the combined effects of various attack vectors on the state and society. The group also researches the methods of hybrid influence activities (modus operandi) used by hostile actors and explores effective risk mitigation countermeasures.

Current projects: „Hübridiohtude tuvastusvõimekuse ja teadlikkuse tõstmise meetodite arendamine“ (2026–2027)

The research group's activities are partially funded by the ISF project (ISF.1.03.23-0011 Internal Security Academy Competence Centre (01.01.2023–31.08.2029).

MICRO-CREDENTIAL COURSE IN COUNTERING HYBRID THREATS

This **specialized 14-week (21 ECTS) course** is organized by the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences in partnership with Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania, specifically designed for practitioners, students, and scholars within the fields of security, law enforcement, and intelligence and **begins on the August 31, 2026**. Course is delivered through a flexible **hybrid format**, blending online learning with one intensive onsite week in Tallinn, Estonia.

Key Application Information:

- Application period begins on March 2, 2026. Interested candidates should submit their documents via the official application portal at <https://apply.sisekaitse.ee/> by the **deadline of May 15, 2026**.
- **The tuition for the 2026 intake is 2026 EUR.** Following a comprehensive review of applications, successful candidates will be notified by June 15, 2026.
- For further details, please visit the [official course page](#) or reach out to the program coordination team at mikroraad@sisekaitse.ee.

