

Jointly created arctic security

Merja Koikkalainen, D.Phil., principal lecturer, Lapland University of Applied Sciences

A sense of security is not a truism. We differ in how we experience security and insecurity. Often, the sense of insecurity relates to the global situation or societal problems welling from it. It can also be an emotion related to the situation in life of an individual. Security and insecurity cover and penetrate all the areas of our lives. The emotions have, however, in common the fact that they are almost always connected to the surrounding world and our circle of life.

The main theme of this issue is security competence. The concept of security can be defined in a very narrow manner to refer to an immediate threat that makes us feel unsafe. Security also involves a wider perspective that also covers the financial, political, social and environmental safety. In his column, Senior Adviser Harri Martikainen of the Ministry of the Interior defines security as something that covers everything that is related to the recognition of risks and preparing for them. The column provides insight into national security, the related threats and work done in its favour.

The development work for the security system of tourism in Lapland was launched as a project in the Multidimensional Tourism Institute in 2009. In the beginning, the development target was Lapland, later the whole Finland and, in 2012, competence was developed as international co-operation. The active development work continues in accordance with the theme of Arctic safety. Eila Linna covers in her themed article the programme of intelligent specialisation. The themes of the Arctic security development cluster include tourism safety, everyday safety, mining safety and maritime safety. Multidimensional Tourism Institute (MTI)/Lapland University of Applied Sciences coordinate this security cluster work.

Thus, security competence has been selected as one of the areas of emphasis of the Lapland University of Applied Sciences. The articles of the issue include security-related aspects in accordance with the themes from almost all the areas of expertise of the university. Anticipating security threats requires networks. The networked operations of security competence are

reflected in the articles in the fact that writers include both own staff of the university and representatives of the industry and public sector.

This online issue is built according to the themes of the Arctic security development cluster. In terms of everyday safety, Harri Ihalainen, Pekka Iivari and Kenneth Karlsson decipher the concepts of cyber security and data security and provide an overview on the status of cyber security in their article. Heikki Konttaniemi's article describes how the Lapland University of Applied Sciences is involved in the development of Arctic smart traffic. In Valtteri Pirttinen's article, the development target is the fire safety of wooden house construction. Eija Raasakka and Kaarina Kärnä focus in their article in the legislation changes related to the safety of consumer services. In the future, the monitoring of consumer services focuses more on safety management and its development. Help for safety management is offered by the Tourism safety tools developed in a project of the Lapland University of Applied Sciences. The article of Pasi Satokangas, regarding the standards of tourism businesses, is also related to these tools. Mining safety-related competence and future challenges or maritime safety have found their own place as development targets. In the operations of Green Care, quality creates security; the same is true for food product chains. Up-to-date and correct route marking provide security for tourists, and this work is done in the REILA route markings project. Development work taking place on the interfaces is done actively.

On the educational side, students are guided to act responsibly in the cloud. Guides working in programme services who have completed the Arctic Guide virtual training master the safety-related issues of tourists. The development competence of hospitality management students is supported via a new thesis process. The essential thing about the process is that all the parties involved, i.e. students, commissioning parties and instructors, develop in the process. An interesting educational combination is found from Johanna Kinnunen's article describing how forest and tourism services can jointly provide employment through the year.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to columnist Harri Martikainen and all the writers. Insightful reading!

Merja Koikkalainen