

Safety lives alongside change

Pekka Iivari, PhD, principal lecturer (Lapland UAS), Head of Safety and Security, Lapland University

Safety has various meanings and diverse uses in everyday terminology. A single term represents the subjective experiences of individuals and relationships between nations. Safety is defined as a condition or state of a system in which risks are at an acceptable level.

Safety is one of our basic needs, which we seek consciously or unconsciously. However, safety is relative in that it can be compared with different situations on a timeline and with people's experiences. An overall experience of safety consists of emotions and something concrete we can touch with our own hands.

The emphasis on mental images and the contrast between them and the real world often lead to a situation in which safety becomes a question of opinions. As a result, "rational deduction" and justification based on numerical data do not lead to a shared understanding. In other words, safety is always a controversial reason for and object of decision making. Safety is not regarded as a separate variable. It is part of quality in organisations and one of the preconditions for wellbeing in societies.

Constant changes in our operating environment shape our conception of safety and its content. Changes arise from local, regional and international development paths. Transformations in values and attitudes strengthen these forces of change. Cybertechnology and the Internet of Things, climate change, immigration, and the geopolitics of superpowers and economic unions are reflected as global change factors in hard security, but also in our softer and more everyday conception of safety.

Our daily lives are surrounded by requirements associated with information security, customer and patient safety, and psychological safety, for example. In 2020, we were forced to adapt our lives according to the preconditions of safety and health due to the global pandemic.

This special issue of our online *Lumen* journal discusses safety within the framework of change. Safety both changes and causes changes. Our specialists and representatives of our stakeholders touch the broad scope of the theme through theoretical reflections and practical observations, by experiencing and witnessing safety.

Leena Viinamäki, Eeva Helameri, Pekka Iivari and Eija Raasakka form an overview of everyday safety in Lapland. The authors emphasise the importance of network cooperation in dealing with diverse challenges. Long distances, a sparse population, climate conditions, and the structure of the public and private service network set specific requirements for our daily safety here in the north.

In his article, Panu Huczowski points out that systems are becoming increasingly complex. Safety is built dynamically in systems – through systems thinking. A simple linear approach to safety is, or should be, a thing of the past. Instead of strict causal chains, everything takes place in networks and systems.

Leena Viinamäki, Ville Kivivirta, Arto Selkälä, Asko Suikkanen and Antti Syväjärvi discuss all the conditions set by digitalisation for the use of services by people living in Lapland. Daily personal conditions, socioeconomic background, level of education, and the workspace and place of residence are important prerequisites in individual cybersecurity behaviour. According to their study, everyday cybersecurity means that people feel that they are in control of e-competence and can act in ways that improve cybersecurity. They propose that cybersecurity be redefined to integrate the individual dimensions of safety by identifying that people may face threats from several sources.

Maarit Timonen discusses the security of supply and defence capabilities in a greener world. A limited number of renewable energy solutions is available to maintain the security of supply. While there is a conflict between carbon-neutrality requirements and defence capabilities, requirements can be fulfilled with a green and sustainable approach, at least to some extent. This calls for hard work and determination.

Kalle Santala and Reeta Sipola present decentralised heat generation based on bioenergy as a driver of entrepreneurship and the security of supply. Decentralised and small-scale energy generation based on woodchips and bio-based industrial side streams promotes self-sufficiency and employment.

Katri Hendriksson and Heini Tuuliainen highlight the perspective of resource wisdom, especially in the construction sector, where occupational safety and health, and risks associated with climate change, are at the core. Sustainable construction and the circular economy promote the smart use of resources, are indications of responsibility and also increase psychological safety.

Toni Westerlund and Loru Reinikka use games as a pedagogical dimension in safety induction. In games, players learn how to carry out their tasks, with safety and how to learn it central themes in all exercises. In addition to work performance, correct and safe ways of working are learned in all phases. As a result, safety can be integrated with learning.

Katri Hendriksson, Heidi Kaihua, Mirva Tapaninen and Satu Valli define the characteristics of safe industrial travel. Safety is linked as a key factor to the requirements and opportunities presented by sustainability and the circular economy.

Katri Ruotsalainen, Sari Nisula and Sini Kestilä discuss responsibility and safety when working with animals in the travel industry. Responsibility and safety associated with animal tourism in Lapland can be developed through training. An operating model that improves interaction between customers, employees and entrepreneurs improves employees' skills and increases customers' safety.

Martti Ainonen and Tarja Jussila underline customer safety in green care activities from social workers' perspectives. The authors use a framework provided by specialists based on the competence of social workers and their own experiences in considering customer safety within the scope of ethics.

Tuulikki Keskitalo analyses psychological safety as the cornerstone of organisational safety. Psychological safety is built in everyday situations and encounters, with leadership and supervisory work being the most significant underlying factors. Psychological safety is particularly important during times of crisis.

Sirpa Kokkonen analyses remote working and its (occupational) safety risks in the light of challenges associated with coping, information security and social interaction.

Elisa Maljamäki draws attention to the central role of communication when building safety. Safety must be communicated in a user-driven way, both in urgent threats and in slowly escalating crises. In addition to visual cues, safety communication must also focus on sounds.

Malla Alatalo, Jatta Sammalkangas and Mirva Tapaninen link societal entrepreneurship to safety by stating that safety competence also belongs to the toolbox of socially responsible companies. At best, socially responsible companies produce safe and ethical products and services that support sustainable development and flexibly meet customers' demands and requirements.

Anne Härmä, Aini Ojala and Mirva Tapaninen state that safety in wellness products and services is part of the luxury of Lapland. Their article discusses the definition of wellness services, and questions related to the safety and responsibility of the product and service range.

Virve Heikkilä, Riitta-Liisa Äijälä and Satu Elo focus on older people's safe living at home. Requirements are related to the transformation of healthcare services into multi-talented teams, while older people in increasingly poorer condition are living at home.

Satu Elo and Antti Haukipuro offer the shared perspective of a university of applied sciences and a wellness company for a solution in which real-time data provided by new home care sensors allows older people to live at home. Sensors serve to evaluate how older people living at home can manage their daily activities.

In their article, Outi Mattila, Pirjo Kaakinen, Soili Vesterinen, Maria Kääriäinen, Satu Elo, Arja-Leena Autio and Arja Holopainen present shared evidence-based practices in promoting patient safety. Responding to the demands of patient safety, high-quality care and ethical activities require teachers and researchers to monitor national evidence-based guidelines and publications that promote healthcare services and to develop their competence. It also calls for cooperation between universities and universities of applied sciences, and close cooperation between universities and social and healthcare service providers.

Hannele Kauppila links safety to quality, using the content of patient safety and changes in the training organisation as examples.

Niko Niemisalo presents a thorough assessment and review of *Ilmastonmuutos ilmatieteilijän silmin (Climate change through the eyes of a meteorologist)*, the new book of Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). According to Niemisalo, Petteri Taalas, whose book is both idealistic and realistic, discusses climate change from a practical perspective.

As you can see, this special issue of *Lumen* offers diverse and fresh approaches. In summary, identifying changes is challenging, albeit necessary, in proactive safety management and in developing society's resilience.

I would like to thank our columnist Kimmo Himberg, PhD, Director of the Police University College, and all other authors for your analyses of safety and all the changes in it.

I wish all readers of *Lumen* 2/2021 a safe spring and an interesting read.