

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY

The opinions of Finns about the foreign, security and defence policy of Finland and the Defence Forces' reform were studied in the interview survey by the Advisory Board of Defence Information, ABDI (Maanpuolustustiedotuksen suunnittelukunta, MTS). In addition, respondents were asked about the international community's intervention in the situation in Syria, Finland's presence in Afghanistan, the factors having an effect on Finland's security, the sense of security, the development of security in the five years to come, and factors that cause concern. There were a total of 18 questions of which three were new.

The survey was done by the market research company Taloustutkimus Oy on commission by the ABDI, and it was conducted in interviews as part of an omnibus survey. A total of 1038 persons were interviewed. The target group was the 15 to 79-year-old Finns except for the province of Åland. Age, sex, region and type of municipality represented the quotas in the sample. Interviews were conducted in 80 places, of which 39 were cities. The sample was weighed according to the target group with the weighed numbers corresponding to Finland's population of 15 to 79-year-olds in thousands (Official Statistics of Finland 31.12.2011).

The interviews were conducted between 26 September and 13 October 2013. The error of margin is  $\pm$  three point two (3.2) percentage points.

When interpreting background variables related to party affiliation, it must be taken into account that the error margin is smaller for large parties. As a result, more reliable data can be collected on them than on the small parties who have fewer supporters in the survey.

The respondents were asked, "If the general elections were held now, which party would get your vote?" 71% (737 people) revealed their political views and 29% (301 people) chose not to reveal it.

The report consists of text sections and illustrating figures which also show the time sequences of previous questions. The illustrations were prepared in Taloustutkimus Oy. Some of the questions form a comprehensive time sequence since 1964. The questions were drawn up by the Research Branch and the Work Branch of the Advisory Board of Defence Information. The report was drafted by the Research Branch. Earlier this autumn, on 11 October 2013 the results of the ABDI's youth survey were published and they can be accessed at [http://www.defmin.fi/files/2610/Nuorisotutkimus\\_raportti\\_suomeksi\\_11.10.2013.pdf](http://www.defmin.fi/files/2610/Nuorisotutkimus_raportti_suomeksi_11.10.2013.pdf)

The data from this survey, like the previous surveys, are stored in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive at the University of Tampere ([www.fsd.uta.fi](http://www.fsd.uta.fi)). The ABDI's survey reports are available in Finnish, Swedish and English on the ABDI's home page, [www.defmin.fi/mts](http://www.defmin.fi/mts).

The Swedish body Myndighet för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap (MSB) has conducted similar surveys in Sweden. The most recent one was published in April 2012. It can be found at <http://www.msb.se/RibData/Filer/pdf/26214.pdf>

In Norway, Folk og Forsvar conducts opinion surveys on an annual basis on security and defence policy. Their latest survey was published in October 2013 and can be found at [http://www.folkogforsvar.no/resources/Rapport\\_Folk\\_og\\_Forsvar\\_okt.2013.pdf](http://www.folkogforsvar.no/resources/Rapport_Folk_og_Forsvar_okt.2013.pdf)

The results of the survey are public and accessible by all. When using the results it should be stated that they are from the survey of the Advisory Board of Defence Information.

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## PREFACE

*There is willingness to support Syria but military intervention should only be authorised by the UN Security Council resolution*

The civil war in Syria has been going on for more than two years. How should Finland and the international community act to solve the situation? A large number of Finns (73%) think that Finland should increase humanitarian assistance to Syria. Two-thirds (65%) think that Finland should be ready to take part in a peacekeeping and crisis management operation in Syria if the UN decides to start such an operation. Equally many (65%) are of the opinion that Finland should receive people who have fled the war in Syria.

Sixty-five percent believe that the international community should solve the situation in Syria only through political means. Fifty-one percent approve a military intervention if it authorised by the UN Security Council resolution while 41% are opposed.

A total of 86% are opposed to a military intervention if not authorised by the UN Security Council resolution.

*Support to the conscription system*

The defence system which is based on the conscript service of men enjoys wide support. Two-thirds or 68 % support the current system of conscript service. Compared to last year, there is a 4% decrease in the support. One-fifth of the respondents are in favour of changing the conscript service to be more selective. Eleven percent is in favour of a professional army.

*Military cooperation with the Nordic countries and the EU enjoys wide support*

There is an almost unanimous support to military cooperation with the Nordic countries (93%) and military cooperation with the EU is also widely supported (84%) whereas military cooperation with Nato divides opinions. Forty-nine percent of the respondents are in favour and 45% are against it.

*Military non-alignment, 'no' to Nato*

The level of support to military non-alignment has also remained the same at 67%. One-fourth of the respondents are in favour of military alignment.

Seven out of ten (70%) think that Finland should not seek membership in Nato. One-fifth (21%) are in favour of membership in Nato.

*No military threat against Finland*

Military threat against Finland is not seen as likely to happen. One-half (51%) think that it is highly unlikely or not at all likely while 41% think that it is rather unlikely. Seven percent think that a military threat against Finland is likely to happen.

*Preparedness for cyber threats*

Respondents were asked for the first time to assess how Finnish society has prepared for threats against information networks and information systems. One-half or 49 percent think that Finland has prepared well against cyber threats while 44% are of the opposite opinion.

## **Measures by the international community and Finland to solve the conflict in Syria**

Respondents were asked for the first time how the international community and Finland should act to solve the internal conflict in Syria. The question included six different statements and each of them was answered separately.

### *Finland should increase humanitarian assistance to the area*

Seventy-three percent of the respondents answered in the affirmative; 78% of women and 68% of men. Twenty-two percent answered in the negative; 28% of men and 16% of women. Five percent of the respondents have no opinion.

Ninety percent among the supporters of the Greens; 77% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 76% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Centre Party; 68% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 56% among the supporters of the Finns Party are in favour of increasing humanitarian assistance.

Forty-one percent among the supporters of the Finns Party are against increasing humanitarian assistance while 26% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 21% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Centre Party; 19% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; and 3% among the supporters of the Greens are against increasing humanitarian assistance.

### *Finland should be ready to take part in a peacekeeping and crisis-management operation in Syria if the UN makes a decision on it*

Two-thirds or 65% answers in the affirmative: 66% of women and 63% of men. Twenty-eight percent are against: 32% of men and 24% of women. Seven percent of the respondents have no opinion: 10% of women and 4% of men.

Seventy-four percent among the supporters of the Greens answer in the affirmative while 73% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 70% among the supporters of the Centre Party; 66% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 63% among the supporters of the Left Alliance, and 53% among the supporters of the Finns Party answer in the affirmative.

Forty-three percent among the supporters of the Finns Party answer in the negative while 26% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 24% among the supporters of the Centre Party; 23% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 22% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; and 18% among the supporters of the Greens answer in the negative.

### *Finland should receive Syrians who flee from the war*

Sixty-five percent of the respondents; 71% of women and 58% of men are of this opinion while 42% answer in the negative: 39% of men and 25% of women. Four percent of the respondents have no opinion.

Eighty-nine percent among the supporters of the Greens answer in the affirmative while 77% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 74% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 68% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 64% among the supporters of the Centre Party; and 36% among the supporters of the Finns Party answer in the affirmative.

Sixty-two percent among the supporters of the Finns Party answer in the negative while 32% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 32% among the supporters of the Centre Party; 21% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and eight percent among the supporters of the Greens answer in the negative.

*Solely political means should be used to solve the situation*

Two-thirds or 65% of the respondents agree with this; 70% of men and 60% of women. Twenty-seven percent disagree with the statement; 29% of women and 26% of men. Eight percent have no opinion; 11% of women and 4% of men.

*All possible means should be used to solve the situation including a military intervention authorised by the UN Security Council resolution*

Fifty-one percent agree with this; 54% of men and 49% of women. Forty-one percent disagree; 42% of men and 40% of women. Seven percent of the respondents have no opinion; 11% of women and 4% of men.

*All possible means should be used to solve the situation including a military intervention not authorised by the UN Security Council resolution*

This is opposed by 86% of the respondents; 86% of men and 85% of women. Eight percent answer in the affirmative; 10% of men and 5% of women. Seven percent of the respondents have no opinion; 9% of women and 4% of men. (*figure 1*)

## **Respondents support the current conscription system**

More than two-thirds or 68% of the respondents support the current conscription model which is based on general conscription for men (72% in 2012); 69% (73%) of men and 66% (71%) of women.

Eighty-two percent (89% in 2012) among the supporters of the Centre Party support the current system; 78% (78%) among the supporters of the Finns Party; 69% (77%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 68% (75%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 43% (43%) among the supporters of the Greens; and 39% (66%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance support the current conscription system.

One-fifth or 20% (17% in 2012) are in favour of introducing selectiveness to the conscript system so that only a part of the age class would receive military training; 21% (18%) of women and 19% (17%) of men.

Among the supporters of the Left Alliance 36% (18% in 2012) are in favour of increasing selectiveness while 35% (33%) among the supporters of the Greens; 21% (17%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 18% (17%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 16% (8%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; and 13% (14%) among the supporters of the Finns Party think that selectiveness should be increased.

Ten percent (9% in 2012) are in favour of introducing a professional army; 11% (9%) of women and 10% (9%) of men.

Among the supporters of the Left Alliance 25% (17% in 2012) are in favour of introducing a professional army while 19% (20%) among the supporters of the Greens; 13% (4%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 10% (7%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 9% (8%) among the supporters of the Finns Party; and 1% (3%) among the supporters of the Centre Party share this view. (*figures 2 and 3*)

### **Military cooperation**

Respondents were asked for the second time about Finland's military cooperation with the Nordic countries, the EU and Nato. Compared to 2012, there is a slight increase in the positive attitude toward military cooperation. (*figure 4*)

#### *Almost unanimous support to military cooperation with the Nordic countries*

Ninety-three percent have a very positive or rather positive attitude toward military cooperation (91% in 2012) while four percent (6%) have a negative attitude toward military cooperation. (*figure 5*)

#### *Wide support to military cooperation within the European Union*

Four out of five or 84% (79% in 2012) have a positive attitude toward Finland's military cooperation within the European Union while 13% (17%) have a negative attitude toward it.

Among the supporters of the Left Alliance 27% (28% in 2012) are against Finland's military cooperation within the European Union while 26% (31%) among the supporters of the Finns Party; 13% (7%) among the supporters of the Greens; 12% (16%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 9% (19%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 3% (10%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party share this view. (*figure 6*)

#### *Military cooperation with Nato divides opinions*

Forty-nine percent (45% in 2012) have a positive attitude toward Finland's military cooperation with Nato; 52% (51%) of men and 46% (40%) of women.

Sixty-seven percent (72% in 2012) among the supporters of the Coalition Party have a positive attitude toward military cooperation with Nato while 55% (47%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 49% (55%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 45% (42% and 38% respectively) among the supporters of the Finns Party and of the Greens; and 25% (27%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance have a positive attitude toward military cooperation with Nato.

Forty-five percent (47% in 2012) have a negative attitude against military cooperation with Nato; 46% (44%) of men and 44% (49%) of women. Among the supporters of the Left Alliance, 72% (64%) share this view while 53% (53%) among the supporters of the Finns Party; 51% (56%) among the supporters of the Greens; 48% (42%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 39% (50%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 26% (23%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party share a negative attitude against military cooperation with Nato. (*figure 7*)

### **Defence cooperation with the Nordic countries and within the EU increase security**

The question listed seven different factors and the respondent was asked to assess their impact on the security of Finns and Finland on the scale increases security – has no impact – decreases security.

Three-fourth or 74% (66% in 2012) are of the opinion that Finland's participation in Nordic defence cooperation increases the security of Finns and Finland while one-fifth or 21% (27%) think that it has no impact. Two percent (4%) think that it decreases the security of Finns and Finland.

Fifty-three percent (49% in 2012) are of the opinion that Finland's participation in the common defence arrangements in the EU increases the security of Finns and Finland while 31% (32%) do not think it has impact. Eleven percent (13%) of the respondents think that it decreases security.

Forty-seven percent (45% in 2012) believe that Finland's membership in the EU increases security while 42% (41%) believe that it has no impact. Nine percent (12%) think that membership in the EU decreases security.

Forty-nine percent are of the opinion that Finland's participation in international peacekeeping and crisis-management operations has no impact on the security of Finns and Finland. Thirty-five percent think that it increases security while 13% believe that it decreases the security of Finns and Finland.

Forty-six percent (48% in 2012) are of the opinion that Finland's growing economic interactions have no impact on the security of Finns and Finland. Thirty-nine percent (36%) think that Finland's growing economic interactions increase the security of Finns and Finland while 10% (10%) think that it has the opposite effect.

The possibility of Finland joining Nato divides opinions. Thirty-two percent (24% in 2012) think that it would increase security while almost as many or 30% (37%) are of the opinion that it would decrease security. Thirty-one percent (31%) think that it would have no impact on the security of Finns and Finland.

About one-third or 35% (38% in 2012) believe that Finland's military non-alignment increases security. Forty-five percent (39%) think that it has no impact while 15% (17%) think that it decreases security. (*figures 8, 9 and 10*)

### **Support to military non-alignment remains the same**

Two-thirds or 67% (68% in 2012) of women (69%) and men (68%) are of the opinion that Finland should remain as a militarily non-aligned country.

Seventy-five percent among the supporters of the True Finns and the Left Alliance (74% and 85% respectively in 2012); 74% (75%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 73% (71%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 61% (75%) among the supporters of the Greens; and 45% (51%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party are of this opinion.

Twenty-five percent of the respondents (25% in 2012) think that Finland should become militarily aligned country; 27% (27%) of men and 23% (22%) of women.

Forty-six percent (42% in 2012) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 24% (23%) among the supporters of the True Finns; 21% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Greens (22% and 21% respectively); and 20% among the supporters of the Centre Party and of the Left Alliance (23% and 11% respectively) are in favour of military alignment. (*figures 11 and 12*)

## Should Finland seek membership in Nato?

Seven out of ten or 70% (71% in 2012) think that Finland should not seek membership in Nato; 71% (71%) of men and 68% (71%) of women.

Eighty-three percent (87% in 2012) among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 77% (80% and 75% respectively) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of True Finns; 76% (75%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 66% (79%) among the supporters of the Greens; and 48% (55%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party are against membership in Nato.

Twenty-one percent (18% in 2012) think that Finland should seek membership in Nato; 22% (20%) of men and 19% (17%) of women.

Forty-one percent (39% in 2012) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 20% (15%) among the supporters of the True Finns; 17% (17%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 16% (20%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 13% (18%) among the supporters of the Greens; and 11% (7%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance are in favour of membership in Nato.

Ten percent (10% in 2012) had no opinion (*figures 13 and 14*)

## Why should Finland not join Nato?

The questions ‘Why Finland should not join Nato?’ or ‘Why Finland should join Nato?’ were asked for the fourth time. The question listed seven different factors out of which the respondent could choose the three most important ones. It was also possible to mention a factor outside of the list.

The factors with which it was argued why Finland should not join Nato were the following (all respondents):

Finnish military would be involved in wars outside Finland (45%), it is better for Finland to stay outside conflicts between great powers (43%); membership in Nato would increase Finland’s defence expenditure (36%); the United States have too much influence in Nato (35%); membership in Nato would increase the threat of Russia in Finland (33%); Finland is ultimately responsible for its own defence (32%); membership in Nato would not increase Finland’s security (25%).

When looked at from the perspective of political party affiliations, the most important factors that emerged were as follows: for the supporters of the Coalition Party and of the Greens (49%) the possibility for Finland to stay outside conflicts between great powers; for the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Centre Party (50% and 49% respectively) the possibility of Finnish military becoming involved in wars outside Finland; for the supporters of the True Finns (44%) the possibility of increasing defence expenditure; and for the supporters of the Left Alliance (57%) the much too big influence of the United States in Nato. (*figures 15 and 16*)

Those who think that Finland should not seek membership in Nato (n= 717) gave the following reasons for their point of view:

It is better for Finland to stay outside conflicts between great powers (335); Finnish military would be involved in wars outside Finland (328); the United States have too much influence in Nato (267); membership in Nato would increase Finland’s defence expenditure (254); membership in Nato would increase the threat of Russia in Finland (253); Finland is ultimately responsible for its own



defence (248); membership in Nato would not increase Finland's security (227); cannot say (12); no reason exists (8).

Those who think that Finland should seek membership in Nato (n= 207) assessed the negative arguments as follows:

Finnish military would be involved in wars outside Finland (92); membership in Nato would increase Finland's defence expenditure (86); membership in Nato would increase the threat of Russia in Finland (72); Finland is ultimately responsible for its own defence (58); the United States have too much influence in Nato (53); no reason exists (23); membership in Nato would not increase Finland's security (21); cannot say (4).

### **Why should Finland join Nato?**

The factors with which it is argued that Finland should join Nato are the following (all respondents):

Membership in Nato would improve Finland's defence capability (38%); the Finnish Defence Forces are not capable of defending Finland on their own (35%); membership would increase security in Finland (30%); it is good for Finland to be in Western organisations (30%); Finland would take part in decisions on Nato's operations (27%); membership would provide military security against Russia (24%); Finland could cut down its defence expenditure (16%); no reason exists (13%).

As to the factors for joining Nato, the most important factor for the supporters of the Coalition Party (44%), of the Social Democratic Party (37%) and of the Centre Party (44%) is that the Finnish Defence Forces are not capable of defending Finland on their own. The key factor for the supporters of the Finns Party would be that Finland would take part in decisions on Nato's operations (33%) and, for the supporters of the Greens, that membership in Nato would improve Finland's defence capability (46%). (*figures 15 and 17*)

Those who think that Finland should seek membership in Nato (n= 207) gave the following arguments:

the Finnish Defence Forces are not capable of defending Finland on their own (119); membership would increase security in Finland (113); membership in Nato would improve Finland's defence capability (95); membership in Nato would provide military security against Russia (84); it is good for Finland to be in Western organisations (82); Finland would take part in decisions on Nato's operations (55); Finland could cut down its defence expenditure (29); cannot say (1).

Those who think that Finland should not seek membership in Nato (n= 717) gave the following arguments:

Membership in Nato would improve Finland's defence capability (238); the Finnish Defence Forces are not capable of defending Finland on their own (212); it is good for Finland to be in Western organisations (196); Finland would take part in decisions on Nato's operations (187); membership would increase security in Finland (158); no reason exists (143); membership would provide military security against Russia (141); Finland could cut down its defence expenditure (119); cannot say (47). (*figures 15, 16 and 17*)

## **Confidence in the management of defence policy**

Sixty-nine percent (73% in 2012) of the respondents think that defence policy is well managed; 73% (76%) of women and 67% (69%) of men. Twenty-two percent (21%) think that it is badly managed; 30% (26%) of men and 18% (18%) of women share this view. Six percent were not able to answer. Among the supporters of the Coalition Party 82% (81% in 2012) think that defence policy is well managed while 79% (83%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 77% (82%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 71% (83%) among the supporters of the Greens; 61% (71%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 50% (60%) among the supporters of the Finns Party share this view.

Among the supporters of the Finns Party 47% (38% in 2012) find defence policy badly managed while 35% (27%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 21% (12%) among the supporters of the Greens; 20% (17%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 15% (18% and 14% respectively) among the supporters of the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party share this view. (*figures 18 and 19*)

## **One-half would keep the current level of defence appropriation while one-third would increase it**

Fifty-one percent (52% in 2012) would keep the defence expenditure at the current level; 58% (57%) of women and 43% (48%) of men. Thirty-two percent (33%) would increase it; 39% (40%) and 25% (25%) of women share this view. Fourteen percent (12%) of the respondents are in favour of cutting down defence expenditure; 15% (10%) of men and 13% (14%) of women.

Thirty-nine percent (40% in 2012) of men and 25% (25%) of women are in favour of increasing defence expenditure. Among the supporters of the Finns Party 49% (50%) are in favour of this while 39% (33%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 30% (36%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 29% (32%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 17% (15%) among the supporters of the Greens; and 13% (27%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance share this view.

Among the supporters of the Left Alliance 30% (23% in 2012) are in favour of cutting down defence expenditure while 27% (33%) among the supporters of the Greens; 20% (12%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 12% (11%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 11% (7%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; and nine percent (6%) among the supporters of the Finns Party share this view. (*figures 20 and 21*)

## **The will to defend the country**

When asked the question: "If there was a military aggression against Finland, should Finland and Finns defend themselves militarily in all situations even if the outcome was uncertain?", 71% of the respondents (76% in 2012) answer in the affirmative; 76% (83%) of men and 65% (68%) of women.

Twenty-five percent (19%) answer in the negative; 29% (25%) of women and 21% (13%) of men.

Among the supporters of the Finns Party, 81% (84% in 2012) answer in the affirmative while 76% (83%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 75% (84%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 71% (77%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 58% (59%) among the supporters of the Greens; and 55% (57%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance answer in the affirmative.

Forty-one percent (34% in 2012) among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 40% (39%) among the supporters of the Greens; 27% (16%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 20% (14%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 18% among the supporters of the Coalition Party and of the Finns Party (14% and 13% respectively) answer to the question in the negative. (*figures 22 and 23*)

### **Personal will to defend the country is strong**

When asked the question: "Would you be ready to take part in various tasks of national defence according to your capabilities and competences?" 85% (87% in 2012) answer in the affirmative while 12% (10%) answer in the negative. Three percent of the respondents have no opinion. (*figures 24 and 25*)

### **Military threat against Finland is seen as unlikely**

How do you assess the possibility of military threat against Finland in the next 10 to 15 years? This question was asked for the first time. The alternatives were: very likely, rather likely, rather unlikely, not at all likely.

Seventy-nine percent are of the opinion that a military threat is rather unlikely or very unlikely; 81% of women and 77% of men. Among the supporters of the Finns Party 83% are of this opinion while 81% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 78% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 77% among the supporters of the Centre Party; and 73% among the supporters of the Left Alliance and of the Greens think that a military threat is rather unlikely or very unlikely.

Seven percent believe that a military threat is very likely or rather likely; eight percent of women and six percent of men. Twelve percent think this way among the supporters of the Greens; 10% among the supporters of the Finns Party; 9% among the supporters of the Centre Party; 6% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 5% among the supporters of the Coalition Party. None of the respondents among the supporters of the Left Alliance share this view.

Thirteen percent think that a military threat is not at all likely; 17% of men and 9% of women. Twenty-seven percent among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 17% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 15% among the supporters of the Greens; 14% among the supporters of the Centre Party; 12% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and six percent among the supporters of the Finns Party think that a military threat is not at all likely to take place. (*figure 26*)

### **Preparedness for cyber threats**

Respondents were asked for the first time to assess how Finnish society has prepared for threats against information networks and information systems. About one-half or 49% think that Finland has prepared well for cyber threats; 50% of men and 47% of women are of this opinion. Forty-four percent of men and 46% of women are of the opposite opinion. (*figure 27*)

### **Confidence in the management of foreign policy**

Three out of four or 73% (75% in 2012) think that Finland's foreign policy is well managed while 23% (21%) think that it is badly managed. Four percent (5%) have no opinion.

Among the supporters of the Coalition Party 89% (82% in 2012) find that foreign policy is well managed while 80% (83%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 73% (84%) among

the supporters of the Greens; 70% among the supporters of the Centre Party and of the Left Alliance (82% and 77% respectively); and 56% (60%) among the supporters of the Finns Party share this view.

Forty-two percent (39% in 2012) among the supporters of the Finns Party find that foreign policy is badly managed while 29% (23%) among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 26% (17%) among the supporters of the Centre Party; 20% (14%) among the supporters of the Greens; 19% (14%) among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 10% (18%) among the supporters of the Coalition Party are of this opinion.

When looked at age groups, the 15 to 24-year-olds are most critical of the management of foreign policy. Sixty-six percent of them (78% in 2012) think it is well managed while 21% (14%) think it is badly managed. Thirteen percent (7%) have no opinion.

As to other age groups, 75% (75% in 2012) of the 35 to 49-year-olds think that foreign policy is well managed while 74% (74% in 2012) of the 50 to 79-year olds; and 73% (73%) of the 25 to 34-year-olds are of this opinion. (*figures 28 and 29*)

### **Finland's presence in Afghanistan in various roles continues to be supported**

The respondents were polled with three different questions on Finland's participation in the stabilisation of conditions and the development of rule of law in Afghanistan.

#### *Finland's contribution through development cooperation*

Eighty-three percent are in favour of Finland assisting Afghanistan through development cooperation. Eighty-six percent of women and 79% of men are of this opinion.

Fifteen percent of the respondents; 20% of men and 10% of women have a negative attitude toward this. Among the supporters of the Finns Party 28% have a negative attitude while 22% among the supporters of the Centre Party; 14% among the supporters of the Coalition Party; 10% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 8% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; and 4% among the supporters of the Greens are of this opinion.

#### *Finland's contribution through civilian crisis management (such as training the police and judges)*

Eighty-three percent are in favour of Finland contributing through civilian crisis management in Afghanistan. There is no difference in the opinions between women and men.

Fourteen percent have a negative attitude toward contribution through civilian crisis management. Twenty-one percent among the supporters of the Finns Party; 17% among the supporters of the Coalition Party and of the Left Alliance; 13% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party; 11% among the supporters of the Centre Party; and 7% among the supporters of the Greens are of this opinion.

#### *Through military crisis management (training of the Afghan army and security troops)*

Fifty-eight percent are in favour of Finland contributing to military crisis management by training the soldiers of the Afghan army and security troops while 37% have a negative attitude toward this. There is no difference in the opinions between women and men.

Among the supporters of the Coalition Party 68% are in favour of this while 67% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Centre Party; 66% among the supporters of the Greens; 57% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; and 46% among the supporters of the Finns Party share this view.

Fifty-one percent among the supporters of the Finns Party have a negative attitude toward this while 42% among the supporters of the Left Alliance; 35% among the supporters of the Greens; 30% among the supporters of the Social Democratic Party and of the Centre Party; and 29% among the supporters of the Coalition Party have a negative attitude toward Finland's contribution through military crisis management. (*figure 30*)

### **Is the future more secure or insecure?**

Forty-three percent (46% in 2012) of the respondents believe that, compared to now, Finland and Finns will face a more insecure world in the next five years. Fifty percent (57%) of women and 37% (36%) of men are of this opinion.

Thirty-six percent (33% in 2012) do not believe the future is different compared to the current situation. The distribution is not influenced by gender.

One-fifth or 20% (20% in 2012) believe that Finland and Finns will face a more secure world in the next five years. Twenty-six percent (26%) of men and 14% (15%) of women are of this opinion. (*figures 31 and 32*)

### **Finland's employment situation and Europe's economic outlook cause the most concern**

The question listed 18 different issues which were assessed by the respondents on the scale 'causes a lot of concern-causes some concern-causes little concern-does not cause any concern'. The following were new items in the list: Finland's military defence capability; social exclusion; increasing foreign ownership in Finland's economy; and the decreasing number of those completing conscript service.

A lot of concern or some concern are caused by: the employment situation in Finland (83%); Europe's economic outlook (81%); availability of welfare services in Finland (78%); Finland's economic outlook (72%); international organised crime (69%); social exclusion (69%); international terrorism (62%); proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction (61%); crisis in the financial markets (60%); global warming (57%); availability of police services (57%); the situation in the Middle East (56%); increasing foreign ownership in Finland (54%); and cyber threats (50%).

The following cause little concern or no concern at all: Finland's defence capability (62%); the decreasing number of those completing conscript service (60%); the number of immigrants in Finland (58%); and the development in Russia (56%). (*figures 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37*)

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