Finnish Security Intelligence Service
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service (Supo) is an operational security authority engaged in close cooperation with international security and intelligence services. Its key duties include countering terrorism and illegal intelligence, as well as security work and non-proliferation (prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction). The duties of Supo are determined in the Act on Police Administration. The basic values of Supo are legality, reliability and quality.

Supo forms part of the police organisation under the Ministry of the Interior as one of national police units. The Supo headquarters is located in Ratakatu in Helsinki. The 220 employees of Supo constantly maintain and develop their readiness under the management of the Director.

**Act on Police Administration, Section 10**

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is tasked with preventing undertakings and crimes that may endanger the governmental and political system and internal or external security, and with investigating such crimes. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service shall also maintain and develop the overall preparedness for preventing activities endangering national security. The matters investigated by the Finnish Security Intelligence Service shall be determined by the National Police Board.
The Government began drafting the Internal Security Programme in August 2007 and it was completed in March 2008. The Programme is a decision-in-principle determining the focus areas, objectives and measures of internal security development in a cross-administrative way. The Internal Security Programme was drawn up for the term of the Government, with objectives reaching until 2015. The key development area highlighted in the Programme covers the prevention of terrorist threats and the identification of violent radicalisation and illegal extremist activity as well as measures geared towards influencing their causes through the development of cooperation. In order to combat terrorism and developments leading to terrorism, it was decided that a national counterterrorism strategy should be drawn up, defining and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of authorities in the prevention of terrorism. Drafted during 2009, the strategy was approved by the Government in January 2010. The counterterrorism strategy examines the terrorism situation in Finland and Europe and presents valid legislation and arrangements among authorities. Based on the

Strategic policies of Supo

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service invests in its core duties by cutting down on tasks that can be handled more efficiently elsewhere and by concentrating resources on operational activities. Supo aims at enhancing its performance by developing e.g. its liaison officer system in accordance with the National Counterterrorism Strategy, by emphasising the special expertise required by its core duties in its recruitment procedure, and by constantly training its personnel in the demands of security intelligence operations.

The Supo mode of operation

Security intelligence is an essential part of the operations of the Finnish Security Intelligence Service for maintaining State security. Security intelligence refers to the identification of internal and external security threats, the related operational information gathering and analysis, and the timely reporting of resulting intelligence information to support decision-making.

From the Internal Security Programme to the National Counterterrorism Strategy

The Internal Security Programme describes the future challenges to internal security, one of which being terrorism and violent radicalisation. The policies outlined in the programme also affect the Finnish Security Intelligence Service, the key duties of which include counterterrorism and the internal security of the State.
Assessment of terrorism situation, the strategy also presents concrete and scheduled activities for increasing the efficiency of counterterrorism activities. Counterterrorism highlights the close connection between internal and external security. Finland must prepare for the threat of terrorism as part of the overall security of the society, with due consideration being paid to the special characteristics of terrorism and its prevention. Changes in the underlying factors and terrorists’ modes of operation may cause rapid changes in terrorism and the related situational awareness. In addition to responding to the imminent and most likely threats, the authorities must have the capability and plans for observing and combating any foreseeable new threats.

In addition to national preparedness, Finland is active in the international cooperation on terrorism. Internationally, both practical operational cooperation between authorities and political influence within the framework of international law are essential. Cooperation among authorities is required for the maximal utilisation of resources allocated to counterterrorism by authorities and organisations.

The operations of authorities must be reliable and appropriately transparent; counterterrorism is no exception in this respect. The realised of the principles of a Finnish State governed by law, democracy, fundamental rights and good governance applies to everyone. In some cases, the internal circumstances of society may promote the development of phenomena causing disruption and insecurity. Problems should be identified and reacted to before they become causes and motives for violence. Accordingly, the strategy is founded on the prevention of terrorism by addressing and influencing the root causes of terrorism.

The strategy notes that the internal security of society cannot be guaranteed solely through the actions of authorities. Ensuring Finland’s external and internal security requires that political decision-makers, the State and the municipal sector, the civic society and business life all work together to combat violence and its causes. In accordance with its basic task, the Police is in charge of counterterrorism in Finland. Within the Police, Suo is the authority in charge of national and international cooperation among authorities.

In the field of counterterrorism, the Finnish Security Intelligence Service is the authority in charge of national and international cooperation among authorities.
The form of terrorism presenting the greatest threat to Western countries today is radical Islamic terrorism. Although al-Qaeda has been unsuccessful in launching an attack in Europe since 2005, several attempts have been made. As demonstrated by the events in Sweden and Denmark in late 2010, radical Islamic terrorism is a concrete threat to the Nordic countries as well.

The ability of al-Qaeda’s top leadership to direct and prepare large-scale terrorist attacks has been weakened by counterterrorism operations in the frontier area of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The strikes have left several key al-Qaeda leaders dead, and the means available to the isolated leadership to strengthen the ideological inspiration of Islamic fighters has been reduced to the making of statements against the West and moderate Arab countries. The organisation has named certain European states as its primary targets.

To secure its international operations the leadership of al-Qaeda has transferred responsibility for attacks to its regional franchises, notably al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQ-AP), al-Qaeda Organisation in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). This has mainly taken place through the Internet.

The organisation has also aimed at transferring operational responsibility to individuals residing in Western countries. The leadership of al-Qaeda may also use formally non-affiliated groups for promoting its agenda. An example of such a group is al-Shabaab, which operates mainly in Somalia.

The number of European Islamic extremists travelling to conflict zones, such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Somalia, has been on the increase, and extremist groups are increasingly threatening countries participating in crisis management operations. Several European countries have observed active communications between violent radical groups operating in conflict zones and in Europe. Al-Shabaab, the insurgent group affiliated with al-Qaeda and fighting the government of Somalia, has succeeded in recruiting supporters from several countries to take part in combat and train for terrorist acts in Somalia. Those travelling to Somalia for nationalistic reasons are not, however, considered to present a material threat once they return to Europe.

A far greater threat is posed by activists with combat training who have participated in the international jihad. Recruitment for violent activity usually takes place in meetings of small, closed groups. Data networks are also an efficient channel for spreading violent ideologies. Virtual communication offers an efficient networking channel for extremist groups. A good example of this is Inspire, the Internet publication founded by AQ-AP in 2010.
In Europe, factors identified as having contributed to the violent radicalisation of individuals and small groups have included social detachment,ROOTLESSNESSand marginalisation as experienced by second and third generation immigrants, combined with the actions of active recruiters.

The Muslim community in Finland is chiefly moderate and acts as a counterbalance to the type of religious radicalisation that might lead to support for violent activities. There have also been no signs of notable radicalisation leading to violence in Finland. However, some individuals residing in Finland are known to have connections to violent groups operating abroad.

Separatist and political terrorist organisations (e.g. Palestinian and Kurdish groups) use Europe as one of the support areas for their radical operations, for example, by funding their operations from Europe. However, large-scale violent activities outside their immediate operating areas do not appear to be among their aims. Left-wing extremist and anarchistic terrorism has increased in some countries in Southern Europe in recent years.

Virtual communication offers an efficient networking channel for extremist groups.

Traditional human intelligence has not lost its significance Regardless of political leaders and structures, the tasks and objectives of intelligence services have remained basically unchanged over time. The purpose of intelligence operations is to obtain political, military, economic and technoscientific information on foreign countries to the benefit of the own country. Today, international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are also of interest to intelligence services.

States determine the focus areas of their intelligence operations on the basis of their own needs and international status. Intelligence services currently acquire most of their data from public sources. Unlike other government organisations, the basic task of intelligence organisations is to aim constantly at obtaining also confidential information. Where necessary, this will be done through illegal means – espionage.

Technical development increases the range of means available to intelligence operations. Telecommunications and communications networks are thus always at risk of becoming a subject of intelligence activity. Traditional human intelligence (HUMINT) and espionage remain important tools for obtaining confidential and classified information. The use of signals intelligence (SIGINT) and other technical means of intelligence has however increased.

Even in the new millennium, intelligence and espionage primarily concern activities among people. People still only share their deepest secrets with the people they know. Consequently, the fundamental objective of intelligence services continues to be the recruitment of persons close to decision-makers as their agents. Agents are used to gain access to information and to influence decision-making.

When approaching a potential agent, intelligence officers claim that they are looking for an expert, a commentator, a friend or an assistant, when they are really looking for a courier, a reporter, an influencer or a servant.

Finland interests foreign intelligence services especially because of its geopolitical location, high-technology expertise and EU membership. There are intelligence officers from several countries operating in Finland. Intelligence operations in Finland are primarily managed from embassies, consulates and commercial missions.

Intelligence officers stationed at diplomatic missions in Finland are used to gain access to information and to influence decision-making. A diplomatic position is a typical “cover” for an intelligence officer.

Diplomatic immunity offers protection against the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving country. Intelligence officers may also pose as businessmen, journalists, students or researchers. Some countries also use so-called illegals, or intelligence officers residing abroad under false identities. The identity of an illegal is backed up by a fictitious life story. Illegals generally begin their work in the receiving country years after their arrival, after they have grown accustomed to their new identity.

Illegal activism is small-scale in Finland but needs to be monitored In recent years the global recession has forced several countries to make cuts that have complicated the everyday lives and livelihoods of their citizens. These measures have often been the root cause behind public demonstrations and the resulting violent riots, particularly in countries in Southern Europe.

The opposition to globalisation and capitalism through illegal means and many other illegal forms of activism are an international phenomenon. The demonstrations and rioting often follow a similar pattern, and the events attract participants from several countries. In Finland and the other Nordic countries the security situation has so far remained relatively stable in this respect.

In addition to opposition to capitalism and the consumer society, Finnish activism is focused on environmental protection and on defending animal rights. Illegal animal rights activism, previously focusing on widely-publicised opposition to fur farming, has moved on to include opposition to the use of test animals at universities and research institutes and in the pharmaceutical industry. Intensive agriculture and animal production have also come under criticism.

Animal rights activists have campaigned for animal rights by reporting animal offences at fur and other farms and by launching media campaigns geared towards influencing public opinion.

Opposition to nuclear power is expected to be one of the forms of activism also in the near future. Demonstrations and campaigns against nuclear power are expected to continue, focusing especially on the construction of additional power plants. Supo participates actively in the threat assessment of nuclear power plants and other facilities exploiting radiating substances in their operations.

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is concerned about the increasing popularity of right-wing extremism and xenophobia. The number of hate crimes has increased, along with skinhead activity. Although these activities can still be considered to be of a minor nature in Finland, it is important to monitor the phenomenon closely.

The fundamental objective of intelligence services continues to be the recruitment of persons close to decision-makers as their agents.
Counterterrorism activities based on law
Acts of terrorism are defined in the Criminal Code of 2003. Chapter 34 on terrorist offences contains a list of offences for which a more severe punishment is to be imposed when the act is committed with terrorist intent.

The Chapter also stipulates the following acts as punishable offences: the preparation of offences to be committed with terrorist intent, the directing of a terrorist group, the promotion of the activity of a terrorist group, the provision of training for the commission of a terrorist offence, recruitment for the commission of a terrorist offence, and the financing of terrorism.

As yet, receiving training at a terrorist camp is not an offence. The penal provisions are largely based on the EU’s Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism. The adoption of the framework decision entails that all EU countries will have more or less harmonised legislation on terrorism, which simplifies the cooperation between Supo and the authorities of the key partner countries.

Counterterrorism falls under the remit of the Finnish Security Intelligence Service
The cornerstones of counterterrorism are international and national cooperation and information exchange among authorities. The main emphasis of counterterrorism activities is on preventive measures.

Security intelligence needs to be efficient, with timely analysis of the information obtained. Intelligence information comprises data obtained through Supo’s information channels and data relayed by other national security authorities and international partners.
Supo’s powers in combating terrorism are stipulated by the Police Act and the Coercive Measures Act. The powers enable, for example, telecommunications monitoring, telecommunications interception, undercover activities and the use of human intelligence sources. The powers granted by the Police Act are available for the prevention and detection of crimes, whereas those granted by the Coercive Measures Act are for investigating crimes.

Since the emphasis of counterterrorism activities is on the prevention of terrorist offences, the Police Act is of greater significance in Supo operations than the Coercive Measures Act. The legislation of other countries also grants similar powers. The information obtained utilising the methods enabled by these powers has notably contributed to the successful prevention of several terrorist acts by the authorities in various European countries in the 2000s. Both the Police Act and the Coercive Measures Act will undergo thorough reform during 2011.

Situation awareness on terrorism
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is responsible for maintaining situational awareness on terrorism by analysing information obtained through Supo operations and from national and international partners as well as from open sources.

The Government situation centre participates in the maintenance of situational awareness by monitoring open sources in real time, around the clock. When required, Supo drafts releases on the terrorism situation for publication and takes part in the public debate on terrorism to ensure that citizens have a truthful picture of the threat situation in Finland.

Threat assessment
Threat assessment is a major aspect of Supo’s national counterterrorism activities in preparation for major events, such as international conferences, state visits and major sports events. Supo draws up an assessment of the potential terrorist threats to the visit. The threat assessment is used as the basis for determining the scale and targeting of security arrangements in cooperation with the local police.

New operating methods
Traditional monitoring and surveillance methods are not always sufficient in the security police’s current operating environment. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service constantly develops its counterterrorism operations while aiming to establish functional and confidential channels for dialogue with partners outside the field of authorities.

Such parties include non-governmental organisations and the representatives of various religious communities. This is particularly important for identifying and preventing radicalisation potentially leading to terrorism.

Measures are taken to prevent individuals presenting a terrorist threat from taking up residence in Finland, or other EU countries via Finland. Tasked mainly with counterterrorism and other matters relating to state security, representatives of Supo act as liaison officers at selected Finnish missions abroad.

The liaison officers assist the missions in the processing of visa and residence permit applications and maintain contacts with the security authorities of the receiving state and those of other countries with representations there. Where necessary, the liaison officers
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is responsible for maintaining situational awareness on terrorism. Also take part in the planning and implementation of measures relating to the security of the mission. The liaison operations are based on the National Counter-terrorism Strategy approved by the Government in March 2010.

Refugee selection trips
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service participates in the selection process for quota refugees by sending its representatives to accompany other authorities on the selection trips. The aim is to identify individuals that may justifiably be considered to pose a security threat to Finland after their arrival in the country.

Supo is a member of the Counter-Terrorist Group (CTG), a working group of Western European security services established in 2001. The CTG is a forum for security services for exchanging information on terrorism and drawing up threat assessments on the security situation of the member states.

As a member of the Police Working Group on Terrorism (PWGT), Supo is involved in police cooperation on counterterrorism. Supo also has bilateral cooperation relations with several countries outside Europe and close contacts with Europol, the European Police Office, involving the exchange of information on crimes and analyses.

Financing of terrorism
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service estimates that a share of the funds raised in Finland and sent abroad by certain groups of foreigners end up being used to support terrorist activity abroad. However, it is extremely difficult to prove the truth of this. The various security authorities cooperate to establish the source of the funds and the channels used to direct the funds abroad.
Responsibility for maintaining situational awareness on intelligence activity

In addition to countering illegal intelligence activities, the Finnish Security Intelligence Service is responsible for combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The legal basis for the operations is formed by the Act and Decree on Police Administration.

Supo is tasked with preventing undertakings and offences by the intelligence organisations of foreign countries aimed at endangering Finnish governmental or social order or the internal or external security of the State. Counterespionage safeguards the secure operations of the key administrative branches responsible for the stability of society.

Supo monitors the activities of foreign intelligence officers in Finland with the aim of stopping activities harmful to Finland as early as possible. Should the representatives of foreign states fail to comply with internationally accepted operating practices, Finland may ultimately take measures in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Under the Convention a diplomatic representative may be asked to leave the country and be declared a persona non grata.

Supo has extensive international relations for cooperation. Successful counterespionage beneficial to Finland requires confidential international information exchange. Supo submits regular operational reports, annual reports and threat and expert assessments on counterespionage to top state leadership and security authorities. Significant social investments have made Finland one of the most developed and functional societies in the world. For the purpose of protecting and safeguarding these investments, Supo has throughout its history supported Finland’s business life, enterprises, associations and academia by combating illegal information gathering activities that target them.

One of Supo’s key modes of operation is supervisory and counselling services aimed at the public and private sectors.
sectors for the purpose of preventing intelligence threats. The objective is to allow organisations, companies and individuals to be aware of and recognise existing intelligence risks and threats.

To be precise, Supo is only responsible for espionage by another state against a target of national significance. Industrial espionage targeting the business secrets of a competing company is a complainant offence falling under the remit of other police authorities; the police are not even entitled to investigate in the absence of demands by the plaintiff. However, Supo also monitors industrial espionage closely to ensure that the case is not one of espionage by a foreign state.

Supo constantly strives to improve the efficiency of its operations through active monitoring of changes in its operating environment. Creating both opportunities for and challenges to counterespionage, the rapid development of technology and communication increases the need for legislative development.

Non-proliferation
Non-proliferation aims at preventing the proliferation of the technology, materials and know-how required for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Success in this task requires extensive national and international cooperation.

International cooperation on non-proliferation among security authorities takes place on a day-to-day basis. The cooperation is governed by international treaties with which Finland, as a high-technology country, has undertaken to comply. Countries wishing to develop WMD attempt to acquire suitable products or expertise from countries such as Finland.

WMD programmes involve the exploitation of technology, expertise and research. Many of the products and substances used in the manufacture of WMD are com-

ESPIONAGE
- national significance
- committed by a foreign state
- offence subject to public prosecution – Supo obligated to investigate

INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE
- business secrets of individual companies
- committed by another company, competitor
- complainant offence – police cannot investigate without the plaintiff’s demand

Counterespionage safeguards the secure operations of the key administrative branches responsible for the stability of society.
monplace products used in regular industries. Such products suitable for use in both civilian industries and the manufacture of WMD are called dual-use goods. These include vacuum pumps, X-ray apparatus, special-purpose metals and various types of valves. The export of dual-use goods outside the EU is subject to licence for purposes of preventing the manufacture of WMD.

Supo cooperates with other authorities on proliferation control. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is in charge of export control, with other key authorities including Customs, the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority and VERIFIN, the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Information technology and data networks
Espionage through data networks presents a real threat to developed societies. Intelligence services exploit data networks and information systems with the intent of breaking into secure information systems, intercepting electronic messages and causing harm to the fundamental structures of society. New threats include intelligence operations utilising removable data storage devices and attacks against process automation systems.

The protection of State data networks against espionage requires solid operational expertise in information technology and data networks. Supo carries out research in information technology in matters falling under its remit and conducts technical analyses on malware, for example. Both domestic and international cooperation in this arena is close and involves various bodies. Key partners in Finland include various police units, the Defence Forces, the CERT-FI unit of the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority as well as information security bodies within state administration and the private sector. Supo’s key international partners on information technology are the security services of other countries.

MOST COMMON TYPES OF INTELLIGENCE

- human intelligence (HUMINT)
- open source intelligence (OSINT)
- signals intelligence (SIGINT)
- imagery intelligence (IMINT)

AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER APPROACHING A POTENTIAL AGENT
pretends to be looking for
- an expert
- a commentator
- a friend
- an assistant

is actually trying to recruit
- a courier
- a reporter
- an influencer
- a servant

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is tasked with combating undertakings posing a threat to external security.
The expression of political opinions and the promotion of objectives by resorting to means beyond civil disobedience became increasingly popular around the world at the end of the 1990s. The EuroMayDay and Smash Asem demonstrations of 2006 showed that politically motivated events causing disturbance to society and public peace are also possible in Finland.

Despite the increased incidence of various forms of radicalism, the current movements committing or inciting illegal activities do not pose a serious threat to public peace in the near future.

The monitoring of internal security – and of domestic extremist movements in particular – is one of Supo’s key tasks. Supo is also in charge of monitoring illegal activism and gathering related information, maintaining situational awareness for the government, preventive security work, security clearances, issuing statements relating to alien affairs and the monitoring of international crime.

Security clearances
The security clearance procedure forms part of Supo’s preventive security work. The objectives include the strengthening of the personnel security of the authority or organisation and the prevention of crimes harmful to internal security or the public economy. For safeguarding the privacy of citizens, effort has been invested in making the security clearance procedure as open and transparent as possible. Since the security clearance procedure interferes with the fundamental rights of the individual, it is governed by law (Security Clearance Act 177/2002).

Through the years, Finland has remained a secure and stable country characterised by the absence of activities by extremist movements posing a serious threat to State security or social order. The types of violent demonstrations that occasionally erupt in Southern Europe and also to some extent in our neighbouring areas are yet to be experienced in Finland.
A facility security clearance is required when Finnish companies participate in international projects or tendering processes. Companies participating in such projects need to demonstrate their ability to protect confidential information. The facility security clearance procedure involves the assessment of the company’s facility, information, personnel and administration security together with the company involved.

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service carries out preventive security work.

Information gathering and reporting
Supo gathers information on internal security, the security of the government and related threats through its operations, from open sources, from the crime record information systems of the police and through national and international cooperation among authorities.

The information obtained is analysed and processed to formulate operational reports or strategic assessments. These are then communicated to other police units, police management, various ministries and other state administration to serve as the basis for a broader situational assessment. The objective is to allow, on the basis of the reports and threat assessments, the determination of the resources and other assets required for ensuring the security of, for example, international conferences and state visits.
Prevention and counselling activities
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service carries out preventive security work which comprises security clearances as well as steering and counselling activities. The objective of the operations is to develop preventive, comprehensive and methodical security activities among authorities, communities and enterprises. Supervisory and counselling activities include general security education and expert assistance on, for example, facility and information security.

Responsibility for the practical arrangements relating to information events and lectures falls on all Supo units. The principal customers of steering and counselling activities include authorities, companies and communities. The preventive security work of operational units focuses on raising awareness of risk factors relating to terrorism, illegal intelligence activities and internal security, and on identifying them. Information security counselling aims at fostering the appropriate storage and processing of confidential information. Supo annually organises around 250 counselling events.

Protecting the security of the government
Responsibility for the protection of the physical security of the government and state visit delegations was transferred to the National Traffic Police in July 2010. Supo continues to participate in the security arrangements of the government, state visits and international conferences in the capacity of an expert authority.

The main tasks include the charting, assessment and reporting of security threats relating to the government and major events, and the national and international cooperation relating to the protection of security together with the National Traffic Police.

International cooperation
Close international cooperation is essential also in the field of internal security. Information exchange takes place between the intelligence and security services as well as the police authorities of different countries. The key forms of cooperation include Club de Berne (CdB) and its working groups, and the Police Working Group on Terrorism (PWGT) in the field of extremist activity.

In the field of facility security clearances Supo is the so-called Designated Security Authority (DSA), and therefore a part of the National Security Authority (NSA) organisation. This arrangement pertains to the appropriate protection, processing and storage of classified information and materials.

The procedure enables participation by the Finnish State and Finnish citizens and organisations in international cooperation involving the exchange of classified information. The activities are based on international agreements whereby the parties undertake to protect and handle classified information obtained from the other party using the same methods and efficiency of protection as they would use for their own classified information.
The Finnish Security Intelligence Service as a national actor

As a security authority Supo is daily involved with the key actors of society.

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is an operational security authority that has its own role in the field of security. The reports and analyses of Supo contribute to our awareness of the national and international security situation. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is also an important partner of the Office of the President of the Republic of Finland.

Secretary General
Office of the President of the Republic of Finland

State Secretary
Prime Minister’s Office

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service serves Finnish society by monitoring issues and phenomena that are often hidden from us in our everyday lives, both in Finland and abroad. In a changing world Supo has become an internationally renowned actor whose work lays the foundation for security and stability in our society.

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is an important partner of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the monitoring of the international situation, both domestically and in the field. In the increasingly global world, the importance of the work done by Supo in the international sector will increase. Examples of current areas of cooperation between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Supo include issues relating to immigration and the security clearances conducted by Supo.

State Secretary
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service is an operationally oriented service-oriented and cautiously open security service authority. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service, previously known as the Finnish Security Police, adopted its current name in 2010 to better describe the agency’s mode of operation focusing on security intelligence.

In its sixty years of operation, Supo has grown from a small and reticent agency to an international, service-oriented and cautiously open security service authority. The Finnish Security Intelligence Service, previously known as the Finnish Security Police, adopted its current name in 2010 to better describe the agency’s mode of operation focusing on security intelligence.

- During Finland’s independence the security police has been in existence since 1919, albeit initially as a temporary organisation. In its current form Supo has been in operation from the beginning of 1949. The history of Supo was compiled in the book Ratakatu 12 in 2009.

- The confidentiality of documents in Supo archives is based on the Act on the Openness of Government Activities. Supo documents are to be kept confidential for 60 years. The material from 1949 was made public at the beginning of 2009, after which public archive material is being made available year by year at the National Archives.

- In security matters Supo serves the internal and foreign affairs administration in particular. The key partners of Supo include international security and intelligence services, domestic and foreign police units, Customs, the Border Guard and the Finnish Immigration Service. The distribution list of Supo reports and analyses consists of top government, including the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, as well as the Minister of the Interior and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- Supo is headed by the Director, assisted by the Operational and Strategic Deputy Directors. The operational functions of Supo are counterterrorism, countering of illegal intelligence, security work and non-proliferation. The operational units are assisted in information gathering by field surveillance activities. Outside the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, Supo operations are carried out at eight locations. The Strategic Deputy Director heads international operations, situational awareness activities and internal services, including financial and personnel administration, information systems and archives, and is also charged with legal affairs and legality control. Communications are directly under the management of the Director.

- The Finnish Security Intelligence Service employs approximately 220 people, of which more than half have police training. The other half consists of researchers, experts, clerical staff and other professionals. Women account for about 40 per cent of staff, with 15 per cent of police positions being held by women. The average age of staff members is 44.

- In the last ten years Supo’s funding has increased from 10 million to 17 million euros. In 2010 Parliament granted an additional appropriation of EUR 850,000 for counterterrorism for 2011.