



# SMALL STATES AND THE NEW SECURITY ENVIRONMENT (SSANSE) PROGRAMME

#SSANSE2018



AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE CENTRE FOR SMALL STATE STUDIES AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND AND THE NATO SCIENCE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAMME

# PROGRAMME

## 08:30-09:00 Opening Session

Welcoming words by **Pia Hansson**, Director of the Institute of International Affairs and the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland

Opening presentation by **Baldur Thorhallsson**, Professor, and Research Director of the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland and the NATO Project Country Director of SSANSE

## 09:00-10:20 The Trusted Allies, NATO and the Nordics

Chair: **Anne-Marie Brady**, Professor, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand and the Partner Country Project Director of SSANSE

### Rethinking the Cold War Small States: The US, Russia and the Origins of Cooperation and Competition in Denmark, Norway, Iceland and the Arctic

Caroline Kennedy-Pipe, Professor, University of Loughborough, UK

### North Atlantic Small State Security, 2025 - NATO West Nordic Security Zone

Robert P Wheelersburg, Professor, Elizabethtown College, USA

*Discussions*

### Nordic Patchwork Solutions to New Security Challenges from Russia: Defence Cooperation Across the EU-NATO Divide

Anke Schmidt-Felzmann, Baltic Sea Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI), Stockholm, Sweden

### NATO's Policy on Civil Resilience: Added Value for Small States?

Gustav Pétursson, PhD Candidate, University of Lapland, Finland

### European Small State Neutrals and NATO

Steven Murphy, Post-Doctoral Researcher in the SSANSE project, University of Iceland

*Discussions*

## 10:20-10:40 Coffee break

## 10:40-12:00 Small States and the Politics of Engagement

Chair: **Arnór Sigurjónsson**, Director, Defence Directorate, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

### Building Shelter in Washington: The Politics of Small State Engagement

Alan Tidwell, Professor and Co-director of SSANSE, Georgetown University, USA

### Denmark at War: Patterns and Developments in Denmark's Military Engagement

Anders Wivel, Professor, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

### Risks and Threats in Small State: Icelanders' Perceptions of Security

Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir, Adjunct lecturer and Post-Doctoral Researcher in the SSANSE project, University of Iceland

*Discussions*

### Security Strategies in the Nordic Baltic Region: Towards Enhanced Regional Defence Cooperation

Zivile Marija Vaicekauskaite, Young researcher in the SSANSE project, Vilnius University, Lithuania

### Building a Security Shelter against Hybrid Threats and Systemic Challenges: Case of The Baltic States

Neringa Bladaite, PhD Candidate in the SSANSE project, Vilnius University, Lithuania

*Discussions*

## 12:00-12:30 Lunch

## 12:30-13:50 Partnerships and Capacity Building in Europe

Chair: **Pia Hansson**, Director of the Institute of International Affairs and the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland

### Defense Policies of Small States in Central Europe: The Role of Visegrad Cooperation

Martin Dangerfield, Professor, University of Wolverhampton, UK

### New Slovak Security Strategy in the Context of V4 and Euro-Atlantic Security Environment

Kristína Janková, Junior Lecturer and Researcher, Institute of European Studies and International Relations, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

### External Energy Policy of the EU. Small Member State's Perspective

Matus Misik, Assistant Professor, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia

*Discussions*

### Small States and the Global Proliferation of Armed Drones: Risks and Opportunities

James Rogers, Assistant Professor in War Studies, University of Southern Denmark

### Malta: Bridge of the Mediterranean - Neutrality as a Small State, Status Seeking Grand Strategy

Hillary Briffa, PhD Candidate, King's College, London, UK

*Discussions*

## 13:50-14:10 Coffee break

## 14:10-15:40 NATO and the Near Abroad

Chair: **Sveinn H. Guðmarsson**, Press Officer, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

### Foreign and Security Policy Reorientation Dilemmas of a Small European State: The Case of Armenia

Narek Mkrtchyan, Visiting lecturer, American University of Armenia

Vahrem Ter-Matevosyan, Assistant Professor, American University of Armenia

### Confronting Corruption and State Capture in Moldova

Ryan Knight, MA Candidate in the SSANSE project, Georgetown University, USA

### Thinking Out Loud About NATO in Georgia and Georgia in NATO

Tinatín Khidasheli, PhD Candidate, Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia

*Discussions*

### The Specific Security Challenges of Small States in Africa

Ian Taylor, Professor, St. Andrews, UK

### Self-Preservation and Strategic Hedging in the GCC

Imad K. Harb, Director of Research and Analysis, Arab Center Washington DC, USA

### Qatar's Defense Policy, a Different Tradition of a Small State

Brahim Saïdy, Assistant Professor, Qatar University

*Discussions*

## 15:40-16:00 Coffee break

## 16:00-17:00 Small States Security Interests and Partnerships in non-NATO Countries

Chair: **Alan Tidwell**, Professor and Co-director of SSANSE, Georgetown University, USA

### Small States and China's Political Interference Activities Under Xi Jinping

Anne-Marie Brady, Professor and the Partner Country Project Director of SSANSE, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

### Balancing, Bandwagoning or Hedging? Small States and Security Alliances in the Asia-Pacific

Rebecca Strating, Lecturer in Politics and Early Career Researcher, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

### Contending Security Interests in Oceania

Stephanie Lawson, Professor, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

### The Dilemmas of Energy Security for a Small State

Toby Dalley, Young Researcher, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

*Discussions*

## 17:00-17:15 Summary

**Margarita Šešelgytė**, Professor, Vilnius University, Lithuania and Co-Director of the SSANSE project