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is supported by:*

**The NATO Science for Peace
and Security Programme**

Small States and the New Security Environment (SSANSE)

Venue: Nordic House
Sæmundargata 11
101 Reykjavík

08:30-09:00

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 States, 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

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

Robert P Wheelersburg

Professor

Elizabethtown College

15 min 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

15 min discussions

10:20-10:40
Coffee break

10:40-12:10

Small States and the Politics of Engagement

Chair: **Arnór Sigurjónsson**, Director, Defence Directorate, the 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

Denmark at War: Patterns and Developments in Denmark's Military Engagement
Anders Wivel
Professor
University of Copenhagen

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

15 min discussions

Security Strategies in the Nordic Baltic Region: Towards Enhanced Regional Defence Cooperation
Zivile Marija Vaicekauskaite
Young researcher in the SSANSE project
Vilnius University

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

15 min discussions

12:10-12:40
Lunch

12:40-14:00

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

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

Kristina 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' Perspective

Matus Misik

Assistant Professor

Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia

15 min 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

15 min discussions

14:00-14:15

Coffee break

14:15-15:50

NATO and the Near Abroad

Chair: **Bogi Ágússon**, Reporter, the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service (RÚV)

Croatia and Armenia: A Comparison of Foreign and Security Policy Orientations of two Small European States

Narek Mkrтчhyan

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

Thinking Out Loud About NATO in Georgia and Georgia in NATO

Tinatin Khidasheli

PhD Candidate

Caucasus University, Tblisi, Georgia

15 min discussions

The Specific Security Challenges of Small States in Africa

Ian Taylor

Professor

St. Andrews

Self-Preservation and Strategic Hedging in the GCC

Imad K. Harb

Director of Research and Analysis

Arab Center Washington DC

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

Brahim Saidu

Assistant Professor

Qatar University

15 min discussions

15:50-16:00

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

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

Bec 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

20 min discussions

17:00-17:15

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

17:15-17:30

Closing remarks by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson (TBC)