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University  
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# Societal Security in Norway

# Presentation

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- Context of societal security in Norway
- Definitions
- Implications and challenges
- Education and research

# Samfunnssikkerhet in English

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Translated as:

Societal safety (Juhl and Olsen, 2006; Olsen et al., 2007)

Societal security (Burgess and Mouhleg, 2007; DSB, 2017)

Internal security and safety (Lango et al., 2011)

Public security (White Paper 10, 2016; NMD and NMJPS, 2018)

# From total defence to societal security

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Norwegian total defence approach:

Two pillars - military defence and civilian preparedness - with the goal to mobilise the whole society in case of crises or war

# From total defence to societal security

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New total defence approach:

Mutual support and cooperation between the Norwegian Armed Forces and civil society in connection with contingency planning, crisis management across the entire crisis spectrum  
- from peace via security policy crisis to armed conflict

# Societal security

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“the ability of a society has to maintain important societal functions and to safeguard citizens’ lives, health and basic needs under various forms of stress. The concept of *samfunnssikkerhet* is widely used and covers security against a full range of challenges, from limited, natural events, to major crises that represent an extensive danger to life, health, environment and material values, to security challenges that threaten the nation’s independence or existence”

(St. Meld. 17, 2002: 4 – my translation)

# Societal security 2.0

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“Public security is society’s ability to protect itself against, and manage, incidents that threaten fundamental values and functions and that put lives and health in danger. Such incidents may be caused by nature, by technical or human error, or by intentional acts. Public security is influenced by three factors: the values we seek to protect, and their vulnerabilities; the dangers and threats we are confronted with; our ability to prevent and manage”

(White Paper 10, 2016: 8)

# What is societal security?

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A characteristic/quality of the society: ability

- to maintain and to safeguard (St. Meld. 17, 2002: 4)
- to protect itself and manage (White Paper 10, 2016: 8)



# Implications

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What is society?

Who is «we»?

Towards forms of governmentality?

From societal security to resilience?

# What needs to be protected?

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- important societal functions
- citizens' lives, health and basic needs
- nation's independence or existence

(St. Meld. 17, 2002: 4)

- fundamental values and functions
- lives and health

(White Paper 10, 2016: 8)

# Implications

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What are societal functions?

What are fundamental values?

Nation's independence or existence: national security?

# What effects societal security?

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- Various forms of pressure
  - a) limited, natural events
  - b) major crises
  - c) security challenges

(St. Meld. 17, 2002: 4)

- Incidents
  - a) nature
  - b) technical or human error
  - c) intentional acts

(White Paper 10, 2016: 8)

# Implications

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- Who is responsible to deal with these?
- Which activities, resources, actions fall under the blanket societal security?

# Education and research

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- 1990s in Stavanger
- MA programmes in societal security
- Research contribution to the development of the concept

# Some readings

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Thank you!  
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