

This project involves a topical analysis of Swedish defence system, including the place and role of local government and pro-defence NGO's within them. During this project, Principal Investigator (PI) will be, seeking (from the perspective of new wars theory) to theorise and model the cooperation between civil society/non-governmental organisations and state defence system. The established theory and conceptual model will aim to serve, first - as a diagnostic tool of possibly wider practical application and, second – as a foundation for further topical studies. The **aspects chosen to investigate** include its legal basis (how precise are the regulations governing such cooperation?), genesis (tradition, history, other?), motivations of the parties (common threats, shared goals?) and the course of cooperation (is it effective?). **The main research question is:** what is the state of theory and practice concerning civil-military cooperation including cooperation of civil society organisations with state defence systems? To find an answer, PI chosen to divide the research into three stages, during which will look for answers to the **secondary questions** (Are the national solutions compatible enough to provide a set of best practices or a specific regional model applicable to current and future threats? What concepts should lie at the foundation of the civil-military cooperation? Is the Swedish model so universal that there are indications and possibilities to implement it in other countries in the region?). Each stage will utilize a different methodology to best understand the issue at hand. The **research hypothesis** assumes that members of civil society organisations can support state defence systems, expanding its competencies, improving cost-effectiveness, and raising the public profile of national security issues in democratic societies, also cooperation with local government is important however, there are legal, administrative and organizational problems that limit the scope of this cooperation. The **general goal** of this project is to examine the scope, rationale and causal mechanisms of the interrelationship between the national (state) defence system and civilian sector from the viewpoint of new wars theory. The chosen **cognitive goal** is to gain a perspective on Sweden. **The results of the research** will be published in an international journal and presented at an international conference. Conference in legal, security or political sciences (or similar), in a country from the north-eastern flank of NATO (the topic in the project concerns this region).

#### STAGE I- THEORETICAL STAGE

- Research methodology: Content analysis<sup>1</sup>; formal-legal analysis<sup>2</sup>; existing statistical data analysis. In depth analysis of legal acts, subject literature and documents concerning Swedish state defence system as well as the modern threats<sup>3</sup> and geopolitical situation and Civil Military Integration (CMI).
- Milestone: High level of substantive preparation, creating questions for expert interviews, finding gaps in knowledge that need to be filled during the next stage.

#### STAGE II - GATHERING OF EMPIRICAL DATA, CASE STUDIES, STUDY VISIT STAGE

- Scientific consultations with the experts in the research centres/universities (no less than 5 experts)
- Meetings with representatives of civil society organisations (NGOs, state-backed pro-defence organisations), participating in pro-defence activities of this organisations, (no less than 3 organisations)
- consultations with representatives of the local government (no less than 2)
- Research methodology: Qualitative empirical research<sup>4</sup>, In-depth interviews/non-probabilistic sampling strategy, semi-structured interviews<sup>5</sup>; in-depth interview is combined with participant observation, which allows for a more detailed examination of the behaviour of the respondents<sup>6</sup>. The research plan assumes 20 days in Sweden: 10 days concerning civil society organisations and 10 days for research conducted in academic institutions and consultation with the local government representatives.
- Milestone: conducting expert interviews

#### STAGE III - MODELING AND VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESIS – CREATION OF A CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF CIVIL-MILITARY INTEGRATION FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF NEW WARS THEORY

- Analysis and systematisation of existing theory and practice concerning new wars theory<sup>7</sup>
- Build a Formal / theoretical model<sup>8</sup>.
- Milestone: verification of the hypothesis and creation of the model

<sup>1</sup> E. Babbie, *The Practice of Social Research. International Edition*, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> *Metodologia badań politologicznych*, Polskie Towarzystwo Nauk Politycznych, Warszawa 2016, p. 63.

<sup>3</sup> Hoffman, *Conflict in the 21st Century: The Rise of Hybrid Wars*, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 2011

<sup>4</sup> Ezequiel González-Ocantos, *Designing Qualitative Research Projects: Notes on Theory Building, Case Selection and Field Research*, [in:] *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*, edited by Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese, SAGE, 2021

<sup>5</sup> William C. Adams, *Conducting Semi-Structured Interviews*, [in:] Kathryn E. Newcomer, Harry P. Hatry, Joseph S. Wholey (editors) *Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation*, Fourth,

<sup>6</sup> Hammersley, M., Atkinson, P. (2000). *Metody badań terenowych*, Poznań, Zys i S-ka, p. 146.

<sup>7</sup> Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars. Organised violence in a global era*, 3rd Edition, Polity 2012.

<sup>8</sup> C. Mershon, O. Shvetsova, *Formal Modeling in Social Science*, 2019, p. 10.