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# Is there such a thing as a secure society?

Information: Security, resilience, societal values  
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# Enhancing Societal Security for safeguarding vital societal functions and protecting our citizens

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# Societal security – a social contract with the citizens

- It is an obligation of **good governance** to prepare for the unthinkable and to allocate the necessary resources to minimize the impacts on people and society from catastrophic events.
- The Responsibility to Protect as a core principle

# Overall Approach to Societal Security

Safeguard the life, health and personal safety of the population.

Reduce the risks and the consequences of disruptions, crises and accidents.

Uphold society's fundamental values and maintain the continuity of vital societal functions.

Limit the damages to the environment, to property and to other economic values.

# Fundamental Challenges for Societal Security

- Failures of Imagination
  - Failures of Initiative
  - Failures of Credibility
  - Failures of Learning
- and
- Failures of Coordination

# Trans-boundary Coordination

- Interconnected vulnerabilities cut across geographies and jurisdictions
- Cascading effects flow widely and deeply
- Second and third order consequences uncertain
- Multi-level and cross-border demands on governance and on coherent communications
- Avoid Failures of Coordination

# Common Problems-Shared Solutions: Whole-of-society approach

Major Task is to **Bridge Mental Gaps** Across:

- security and safety professionals
- civil and military professionals
- civil and civil authorities
- EU, national, regional, and local authorities
- public authorities and private sector
- public domain and volunteer associations
- inter-governmental jurisdictions

# Tasks: Foster Shared Sense Making

- Beyond Information & Intelligence Sharing
- Technologies for integrated Domain Awareness
- Training for Operatives & Strategic Level
- Scenario based Exercises engaging stakeholders across sectors, levels, institutions and public-private divide



# Tasks: Invest in Meaning Making

- Communicate about known and emerging risks
- Formulate Narratives
- Address Accountability
- Construct Closure
- Build trust over time & across stakeholders
- Avoid Failures of Credibility

# Tasks: Mobilise Critical Knowledge for Strategic Purposes

- Research based knowledge plus  
Experience based knowledge
- Knowledge from reliable evidence plus  
Knowledge from leaps of foresight
- Knowledge transformed into novel Practices
- Avoid Failures of Learning

# Research for enhanced Societal Security at home and abroad

- The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) invests in problem focused, demand driven research and development. Grants support some 60 projects at universities and institutes.
- The Swedish program complements the much larger H2020 research program, Secure Societies, handled by the EU Commission (DG-HOME).
- The MSB program is a basis for sustained collaboration with the DHS Science & Technology program including projects with several DHS funded and university based Centers of Excellence.

# Common Problems – Shared Solutions: MSB Vision

Together we shall **strengthen our shared societal security** through a **whole-of-society approach** to **meet and recover** from antagonistic threats and natural or man-made disasters, **reduce** local as well as transnational **vulnerabilities** and **build trans-boundary capacities**.

**Promote Holistic Framing both in practices and in the research programs that should underpin such practices toward enhancing societal security.**