

# Friday, March 27

8:45 - 10:00 National Policy updates from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Estonia

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 Workshop 3: Ethics and Responsible Internationalisation

12:00-12:30 Closing event

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch or takeaway lunch



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

# **National Policy updates from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Estonia**

**Nordic TCA on Responsible Internationalisation  
March 25-27  
Helsinki, Finland**



# Panelists



***Tiina Vihma-Purovaara*** is a Senior Ministerial Adviser Ministry of Education and Culture. She coordinates the Department's international activities, focusing on responsible international cooperation in research and knowledge security, and leading the Team Finland Knowledge network for Higher Education and Science Counsellors. She is also involved in European science, technology, and innovation (STI) cooperation with non-European countries, and fosters collaboration between the Ministry and key stakeholders in the internationalisation of higher education and science.



**Anders Ahlstrand** works as analyst at the Swedish Council for Higher Education. He has experience of implementing a wide range of European and national mobility and cooperation programmes both at university and national level and he has co-ordinated numerous projects and studies concerning internationalisation of higher education. He coordinated the group of government agencies that in 2023 got the task from the government to propose national guidelines for responsible internationalisation in higher education, research, and innovation.

30/03/2026 | Finnish National Agency for Education



**Hege Toje, PhD** is a Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills, where she works with programmes that fund higher-education cooperation outside Europe and the [Panorama strategy](#). She led the development of Norway's national guidelines for responsible international cooperation, commissioned by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and launched in 2023 and continues to build knowledge, update guidance online and support sharing of best practices in the field of responsible internationalization.



**Dr Una Strand Vidarsdottir** works as a Deputy Director of the Department of Higher Education and Science in the Ministry of Culture, Innovation and Higher Education in Iceland. She contributes actively to national policy across both fields, and been actively involved in shaping policy on the international level, including issues such as quality assurance, academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and improved implementation of international commitments across Europe.



**Heli Aru-Chabilan** has a diverse management experience in the field of education. She works currently as the head of the Education Programmes Centre at the Estonian Education and Youth Board, Harno. The most exciting moments of her professional life so far have been related to Estonia's accession to the European Union and the OECD. She sincerely believes that as a small country, Estonia must consciously create opportunities to be internationally visible and heard – and the education sector has a key role to play in this.

## Guidelines and tools for responsible international knowledge cooperation

The guidelines provide an overview of laws and regulations that the Norwegian research and education sector must adhere to, and they highlight key considerations and procedures for faculty, and for institutional leadership and administration. The guidelines offer tools for managing risks and enhancing security in international academic cooperation.



<p>› <b>General advice for institutional leadership and administration</b></p> <p>Here you'll find a summary of advice aimed at institutional leadership and administration for the development of systems for responsible international cooperation.</p>	<p>› <b>General advice for academic communities</b></p> <p>Here you'll find a summary of advice directed towards academic communities to develop responsible international cooperation.</p>	<p>› <b>International research and innovation cooperation</b></p> <p>Here you'll find resources on research cooperation, open science and data sharing, and agreements on research cooperation.</p>
<p>› <b>International higher education cooperation</b></p> <p>Here you'll find an overview of known challenges in international cooperation in higher education, what information should be assessed about partner country and partner institution.</p>	<p>› <b>Risk and security management at the knowledge institution</b></p> <p>Here you'll find resources on security management, recruitment and appointment, and the safeguarding of employees, students, and guest researchers.</p>	<p>› <b>Academic values and research ethics</b></p> <p>Here you'll find resources on academic freedom, open science and research ethics.</p>
<p>› <b>Export control of knowledge transfer and international sanctions</b></p> <p>Here you'll find an overview of Export Control Regulations and international sanctions, the responsibility of knowledge institutions, and the recommended assessments for leadership and management, and for the academic community.</p>	<p>› <b>Information security and data protection</b></p> <p>Here you'll find an overview of legal frameworks and tools tied to challenges and responsibility in the area of information security and data protection. What should be considered in digital cooperation with partners abroad?</p>	<p>› <b>Asset mapping</b></p> <p>Here are some tips for conducting an asset mapping exercise. The website is only in Norwegian.</p>

  
 DET KONGELIGE  
 JUSTIS- OG BEREDSKAPSDEPARTEMENTET

**Meld. St. 9**  
(2024–2025)  
Melding til Stortinget

---

Totalberedskapsmeldingen  
Forberedt på kriser og krig



  
 Kunnskapsdepartementet

Strategi

**Strategi for forskning og høyere utdanning på Svalbard**  
Svalbard – på verdensstoppen for kunnskap med global betydning



  
 DET KONGELIGE  
 KUNNSKAPSDEPARTEMENTET

**Meld. St. 14**  
(2024–2025)  
Melding til Stortinget

---

Sikker kunnskap i en usikker verden




Reports, analysis, overview

### Geopolitical tension and international knowledge collaboration

A qualitative study of experiences in Norwegian higher education and research

Rapport - Part of report series: Yes

Responsible international cooperation is complex and requires insights across academic and policy domains. Finding the right balance between security and openness depends among others on our ability to share experiences and resources across borders, and to maintain an open dialogue about the challenges and opportunities arising in an increasingly demanding international landscape.

Publisher: Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills

Editor-in-chief: Kristine Offerdal

ISSN: 2703-9102

Authors: Margrete Savik, Bård Oranng

Published: 20.10.2025

Report number: 10/2025



Download (PDF, 674,88 KB)

## Integrating guidelines in funding schemes and portfolio management



### Risk factors in the project and measures to reduce them \*



Please indicate what risk factors may negatively affect the project's ability to achieve the results, and what measures you plan to take to reduce them.

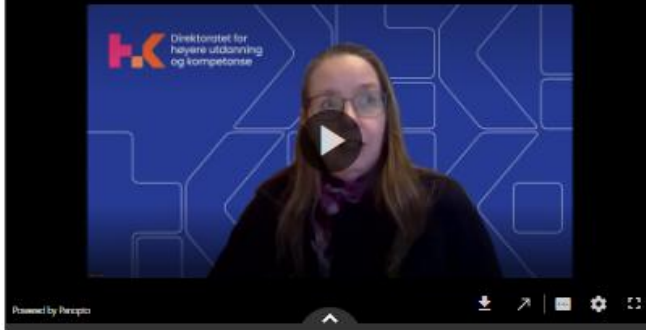
Examples of risk factors include different access to the opportunities/impact the project will create, negative environmental/climate impact, project participants withdrawing from the project, challenges related to recruitment and corruption. For projects that involve the development of digital tools, platforms etc., handling data protection and IT security can often be risk factors that should be mentioned. Consideration should also be given to potential risks in relation to fundamental academic values and national interests including security interests. Please consult [Guidelines and tools for responsible international knowledge cooperation](#).

Maximum number of characters: 2,500.

Webinars

### Arrangementsopptak

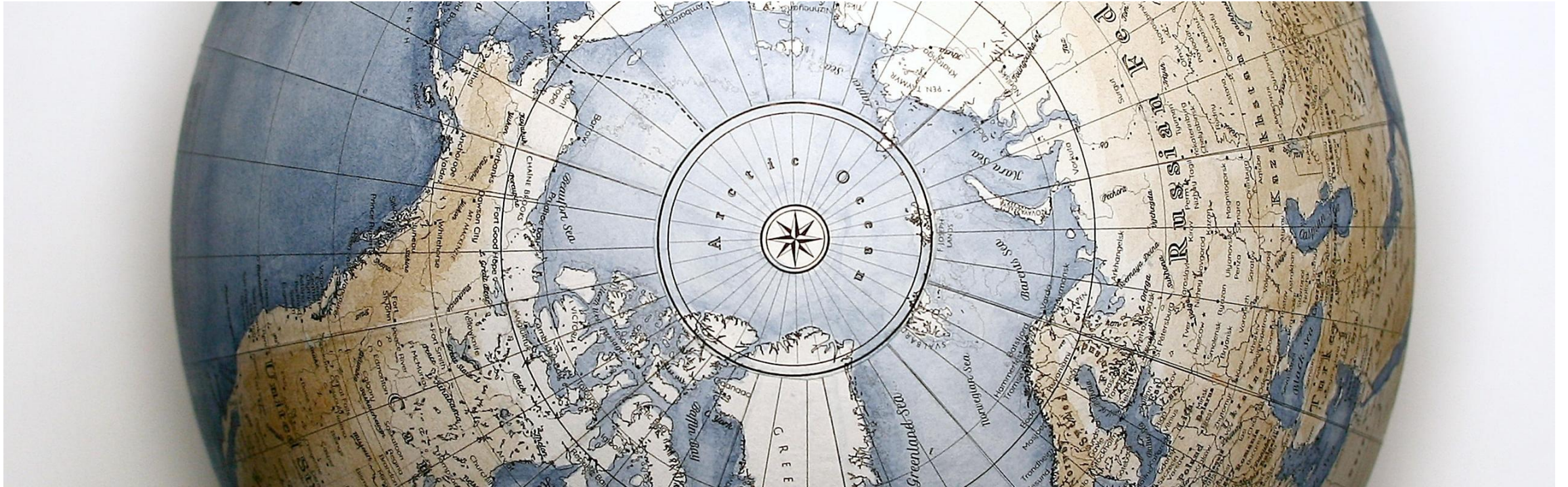
Kjenn din partner og fremtidige samarbeidspartner



## Inter-agency cooperation



# Responsible internationalisation in Sweden



## Government assignment – June 2023

- *“...promote responsible internationalisation in collaboration in higher education, research and innovation”*
- Develop national guidelines
- Propose other forms of support
- Some initiatives had been taken earlier, Stint
- International collaboration a necessity for a small country

## National support function for responsible internationalisation

Final report on a Government assignment





National policy

National guidelines



Support-  
function



HEI-level guidelines

Funding agencies



Other actors

**New government assignments, June 2025**

# National guidelines

## Sweden

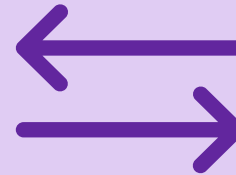
## Other country/countries

**Context**

The national context



The cooperation



The foreign context



**Actors**

The local context



Knowledge about the  
partner, HEI and  
researcher





FINNISH  
GOVERNMENT

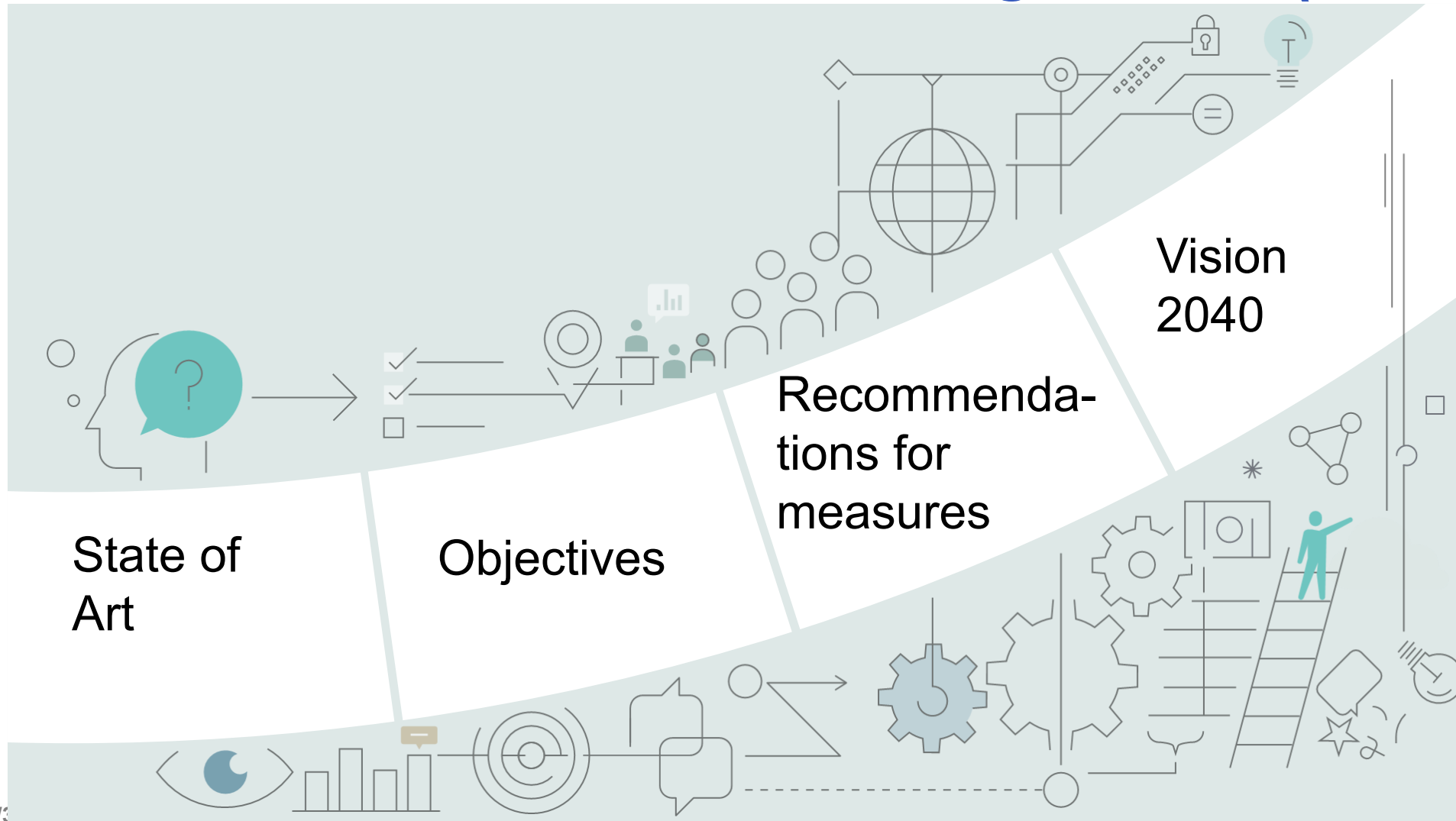
# Nordic TCA on Responsible internationalisation in Helsinki

The State of Play /Finland  
Tiina Vihma-Purovaara, Senior Ministerial Adviser  
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

# Research Security and Responsible International Cooperation

- Council Recommendation on enhancing research security of May 2024, implementation in Finland
  - The RCF is obliged by law us to ensure that research security and the risks associated with it are taken into account appropriately in funded research projects and research collaboration and in the utilisation of research results. However, according to the law, consideration of security aspects must not restrict the researcher's right to choose their research topic and methods.
  - Recommendations by a Working group on responsible international cooperation in higher education and research 3/2025
  - Awareness raising = webinars, dialogues

# Towards the vision for HE and research 2040 and the new Government Programme (2027





# Responsible international cooperation in the Vision

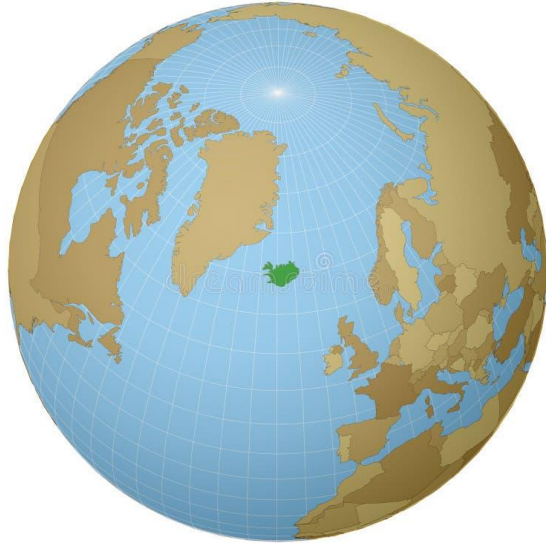
- Strong emphasis on
  - Academic and scientific freedom, democracy
  - International cooperation, Nordic and European cooperation
- At Government level, policies and practices concerning responsible internationalisation and research safety will be harmonised for actors engaged in research.
- Research organisations and research funding providers will develop common operating models for research security and international cooperation.

# Responsible internationalisation in Iceland



# Latecomers relative to the other Nordic countries

- Strong in international research and co-publication
- Debate has been ongoing and the need is clear, but little official policy
- Chance to learn from others
- New Policy on Open and Responsible Science 2026-2029 (open consultation this weekend)



## Policy objective:

1. Ensure the security of the research environment by protecting researchers, research and technology infrastructure, data and intellectual property.
2. Promote responsible internationalisation by ensuring that international cooperation is based on shared values, transparency, mutual trust and sound agreements.
3. Protect academic freedom, the independence of researchers, entrepreneurs and institutions and support open and secure science.
4. Minimize risk through targeted security measures without stifling excellent research or avoiding sensitive research topics.

# The role of HEIs in Responsible Science

- To develop a clear policy on research security and responsible internationalisation, as part of the overall strategy of the institution and:
  - Have an overview of all international collaborations and agreements.
  - Map research areas with increased risk, including areas related to dual-use, sensitive data and critical infrastructure.
  - Implement processes for risk assessment and due diligence of researchers and other collaborators, projects and funding
  - Develop guidelines for scientists to ensure physical and digital security.
  - Ensure secure data infrastructure and cyber security.
  - Support training for:
    - students and young researchers,
    - supervisors and scientists in international collaborations,
    - staff in support services, research services and lawyers involved in contract negotiations and letters of intent.
  - Researchers are responsible for following the institution's policy, participating in training and conducting risk assessments for projects, especially when working with sensitive data, sensitive technology or foreign partners.





HARIDUS- JA NOORTEAMET

# Nordic TCA on responsible internationalization

The perspective from Estonia

Heli Aru-Chabilan

27.03.2026



# Gradual change in attitudes towards internationalisation and growing risk awareness

- Since 2016: trend towards rethinking internationalisation. Growth in cooperation initiatives with China (Vesterbacka/Belt and Road Initiative, ...).
- 2019: parliamentary elections brought a shift towards more conservative approaches + COVID impact resulted HE internationalization becoming less of a priority theme.
- 2022: the war in Ukraine ends cooperation with Russia and Belarus.
- 2023: Israeli–Palestinian conflict sparked demonstrations in campuses.
- 2024: internal security services detained political science professor for cooperation with Russian security services. Similar incident in different HEI in 2021 for the cooperation with Chinese authorities.
- **International students in Estonian HEIs (2024/25): 8.7% (3954 students)**
  - From 119 countries. Top 5 - Finland, Ukraine, India, Azerbaijan, Pakistan.
  - Regional numbers: Europe 2074; Asia 1310; Africa 230; Latin America/Caribbean 174; North America 139; Oceania 21.



# Current operational steps towards safer and smarter internationalization

- **New development - MoER + partners have started to develop science security guidelines.** HE not yet formally included. The result is expected by the end of 2026.
- University of Tartu remains the only HEI with approved "Guidelines for Responsible Internationalisation" (2025).
- Since 2022: ISS info seminars for HEI leadership, later also for support staff.
- Main current tools and frameworks:
  - Estonian Foreign Intelligence Service Yearbook "[International Security and Estonia 2024](#)"; [Annual reviews](#) of the Estonian Internal Security Service; [Database](#) of Chinese institutions tied to military/ security R&D
  - EU Risk Assessment Recommendations: four most sensitive tech areas.
  - CESAER White Paper "[Keeping Science Open](#)";
  - [Academic Freedom Index](#); [Freedom Index by country](#); [World Justice Project Rule of Law Index](#); [Corruption Perceptions Index](#).



The background features abstract, flowing shapes in vibrant green and blue. A thick green band curves from the top right towards the center, while a blue band curves from the bottom left towards the center, creating a sense of movement and depth.

**Coffee Break!**

**Let's be back at 10:30**