



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND

Promoting responsible international research cooperation

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Geopolitics

Academic Freedom Index (2023)

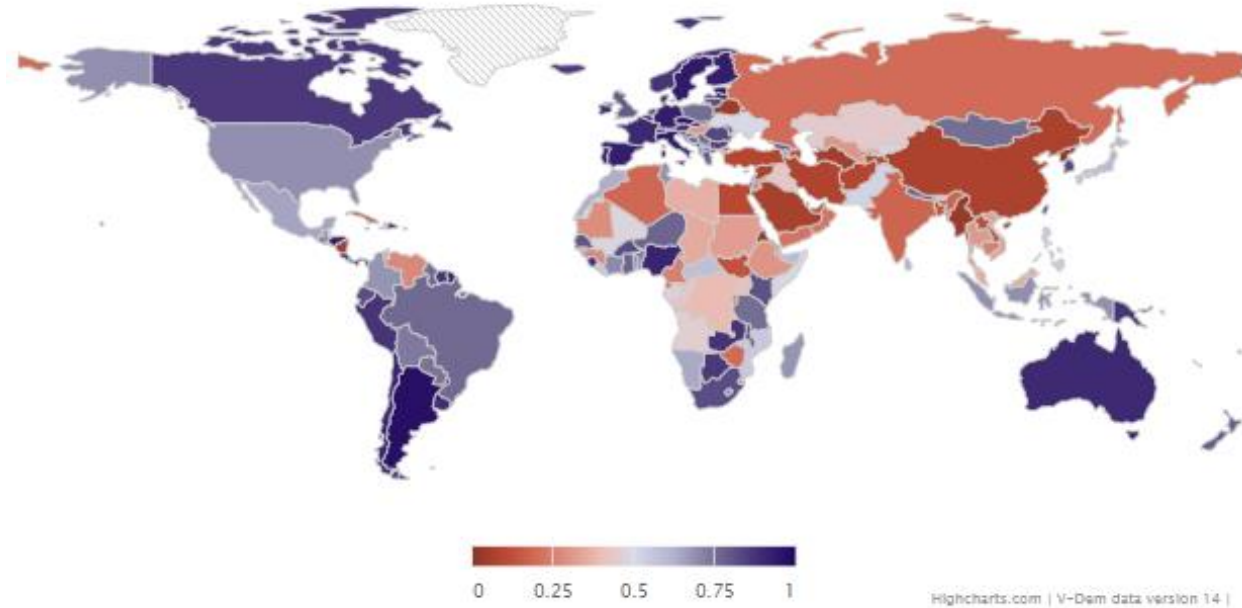
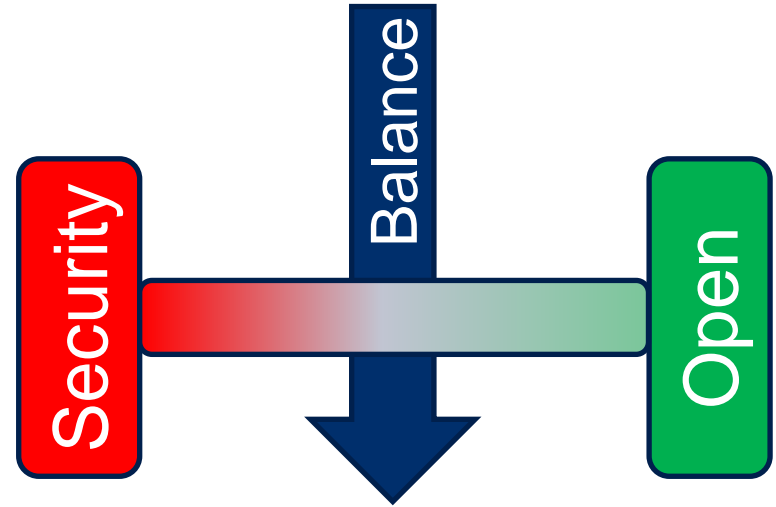


Figure from: <https://academic-freedom-index.net/data/>

Ministry's role and activities

- Facilitator promoting a culture of *responsible international collaboration* in the higher education and research sector
 - Policy actions
 - National dialogue
 - EU-level discussion, plans, and actions + global level

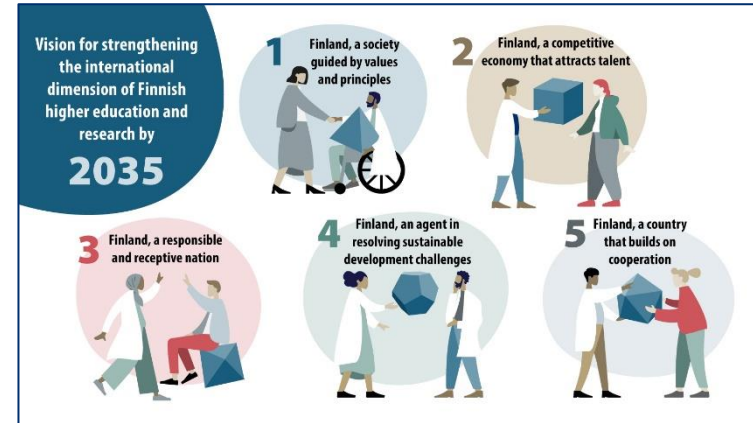


Policy actions

- Recommendations for academic cooperation with China (2021)
- Policy regarding Russian's invasion of Ukraine (2022)
- Constant monitoring of geopolitical developments and taking the global situation into account in policy actions

National dialogue

- International forum network meetings 2018-2023: Finnish higher education institutions, research institutes and other stakeholders
- 1:1 stakeholder meetings and a national event last Fall
- Piloting responsible internationalization group in 2024: Ministry, Rectors' Council of Finnish Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences → **number of events upcoming in the Fall**



EU-level and global activities

- Strengthening trusted partnerships
- Involvement in EU level and global discussions (MLE, MLD, EU-KNOC, ...)
- Supportive of the EU council recommendations
 - Changes in the geopolitical situation warrant support to research organizations
 - Some of the recommended measures may be challenging for smaller nations and research sectors

Recommendations for Member States

- **Engage in dialogue with the sector to define a national approach** to research security (roles, responsibilities)
- **Facilitate information exchange** between research performing organisations and research funding organisations, also consider intelligence agencies
- Strengthen the evidence base and analyze threat space
- Pay specific attention to international cooperation in domains involving **critical knowledge and technology**
- Reinforce **cross-sectoral cooperation** within government
- Share with the Commission information on the Finnish national approach