

INVITATION

THE NORDIC SAFE CITIES VANTAA CAMP 2023

Dear city colleagues, partners, and friends,

On behalf of the Nordic Safe Cities Alliance, Mayor Ritva Viljanen and the city of Vantaa, we hereby invite you to the Nordic Safe Cities Camp on Nov. 8-9, 2023, in Vantaa, Finland.

Have you ever been to Vantaa? As one of the most multicultural cities with over 140 different languages spoken and a wide range of nationalities, Vantaa is positioned as a beacon of inclusivity and cultural diversity. As a dynamic city with a rich cultural heritage and stunning natural scenery, Vantaa sets the ideal backdrop for exchanging ideas and exploring new frontiers.

Join us in Vantaa to connect with your fellow outstanding democracy and safety colleagues to take stock of the current landscape and pursue effective strategies to safeguard Nordic democracy. The participants will be professionals from cities, police, civil society, national authorities, academia, and youth leaders. You will have the opportunity to connect with leading thinkers and do'ers in the field, share your valuable perspectives, learn, and gain new insights into your own strategies and initiatives, and actively contribute to our collective effort in safeguarding democracy and preventing extremism across the Nordics.

The state of our democracy in the digital age

The Nordic region is known for being safe, democratic and inclusive but the safety and democracy landscape is changing. The security threat posed by the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is felt throughout the Nordic region. New technologies and our life on social media provide fertile ground for the spread of conspiracy theories, polarisation, and hate which threatens to destabilize our Nordic and local democracies. Hybrid malign information campaigns and threats have become a more visible concern and topic amongst prevention professionals.

The war in Europe is a reminder of how precious the Nordic democracies and societies are, and it has made it even more clear that we cannot take democracy for granted. To safeguard our Nordic values of inclusion and democracy, we must have a strong preventive and cooperative presence, both offline and online. Agility, democratic preparedness, and forward-thinking prevention strategies are needed. In this light it is timely to meet in Vantaa and learn from each other how to stay ahead and ensure that our prevention thinking and structures meet the emerging challenges.

Together, let's pave the way towards safer, more resilient cities that stand as a testament to our shared values and unwavering commitment to democracy.

Jeppe Albers
Director
Nordic Safe Cities

Ritva Viljanen
Mayor
City of Vantaa



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Pursuing what works together

At this year's camp the Nordic Safe Cities alliance will convene for two action-packed days. Nordic thinkers, practitioners, politicians, academia, and police will discuss and develop national and local policies aimed at maintaining safe Nordic cities, safeguard democracy and prevent polarisation, extremism, and hate. This work is grounded in our shared Nordic values which builds around trust, democracy, safe local offline and online environments, youth representation and social cohesion.

The nature of the camp is a working forum rather than a classic conference, focusing on the value of conversation with each other. It will feature short keynotes, presentations from cities and civil society across the Nordic, time to learn from each other's best local practices in fellow Nordic cities and have informal time to connect.

The first day presents insights from Finland and focuses on difficult cross-Nordic dilemmas in safeguarding democracy by preventing extremism, polarisation and hate in a practical perspective. Through the insights from Nordic cities, prevention leaders and thinkers we assess the threats against Nordic democracies in 2023 and translate the current trends and challenges into a framework applicable for local practitioners. Day 1 will also feature a dinner for all participants.

Day 2 will be highly cooperative as all participants will draw conclusions and learnings from day 1 and the past year into guiding principles and new ways to strengthen local preventive initiatives and strategies to safeguard local Nordic democracies.

Additionally, we are excited to showcase the remarkable efforts and approaches of the host city to our network of Nordic colleagues and Vantaa will have the opportunity to receive support from Nordic colleagues to the current challenges in their city related to safety and extremism.

Programme highlights and speakers will be sent out in due time prior to the event.

SIGN UP NOW

[Please register your participation here](#)

Participation and catering at the two-day Camp are free of charge.
Travel costs and accommodation are not included.

Deadline: Please confirm latest 9th of October 2023

WHEN AND WHERE

Date and time

Wednesday, 8th of November 2023, 09.30 – 17.00 EEST. (Dinner at 18.00-21.30)

Thursday, 9th of November 2023, 09.00 – 15.00 EEST.

Location

The Camp will be held as an in-person event in Vantaa at the Clarion Hotel Aviapolis, *only a 15-minute walk from Helsinki Airport! Address: Karhümaente 5, 01530 Vantaa, Finland.*

The dinner will take place at restaurant Vanha Viilatehdas. *Address: Kuninkaantie 28, 01740 Vantaa, Finland*

Contact for further questions:

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