

Comprehensive security against climate change: Preparing for cascading and transition impacts

Emma Hakala

Finnish Institute of International
Affairs



Starting points

- Need to build foresight and preparedness for the cascading and transition impacts of climate change
- Potential for action in Finland's model of comprehensive security?

[Project: Climate change and Finland's security of supply](#)



Security impacts of climate change summarised

Direct impacts

- Climate change directly affecting people and societies
- E.g. storms, floods, extreme heat

Cascading impacts

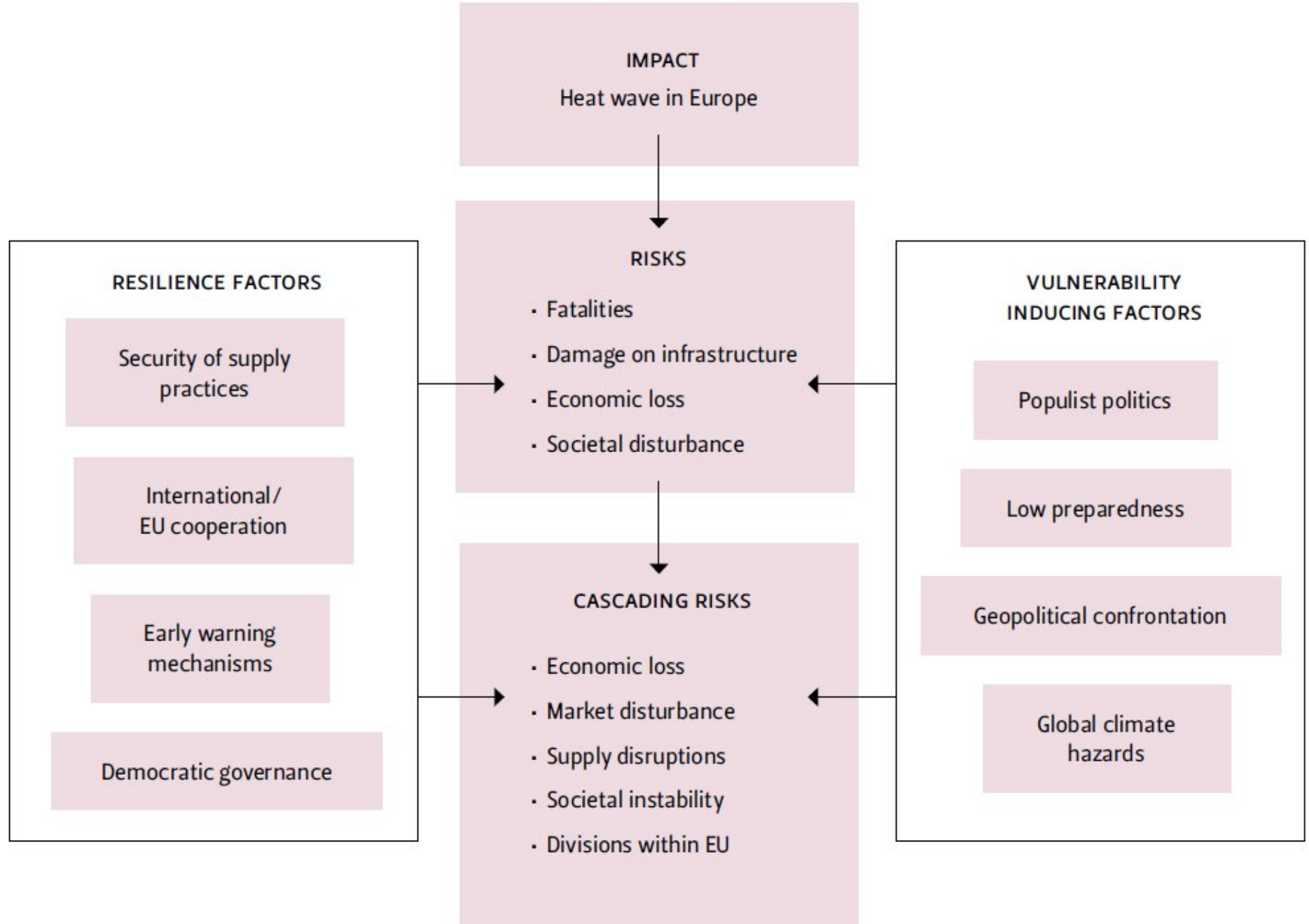
- Climate change + socioeconomic factors
- Transboundary chains of effects
- E.g. conflicts, supply chain disruptions

Transition impacts

- Consequences of the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
- E.g. vulnerabilities of raw materials for sustainable energy

Example of cascading impact for Finland: Heat wave in Europe

Source: Hakala 2023



Finland and preparedness for climate impacts

- Cascading and transition impacts are crucial for Finland (Hakala et al. 2021)
- Implications are cross-sectoral
- Foresight and preparedness are difficult due to complexity of impacts
- Could Finland's comprehensive security model provide a useful approach to climate security?



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Comprehensive security in Finland

- Cooperative model for societal security
- Maintaining vital functions of society
- Collaboration involving authorities, businesses, NGOs and citizens
- Whole-of-government, cross-sectoral
- Actors share and analyse security information, prepare joint plans and train together

THE FUNCTIONS VITAL FOR SOCIETY



Source: The Security Committee

Comprehensive security and climate change

- Potential for addressing climate change (Räisänen et al 2021):
 - Cross-sectoral approach,
 - proactive outlook,
 - wide understanding of security actors
 - applicability at multiple levels
- But obstacles to integration in practice:
 - Central role of “traditional” security actors
 - Limited time-scale
 - Path-dependent view of society/climate
 - Inadequate cross-sectoral exchange (esp. environment-security)



Need to develop analytical tools for climate security in cooperation with security sector?

Foresight and risk assessment expertise from security sector to benefit climate security analysis



Climate insight to benefit situational awareness in the security sector

Requires:

- ✓ Identification of generalizable climate security pathways for various kinds of cascading and transition impacts
- ✓ Integration of environmental (social scientific) expertise into foresight

Thank you!

