Helsinki Geoeconomics Society

Communiqué No. 3 (2026)

From Helsinki Geoeconomics Week to the 2026–2027 Cycle

Helsinki Geoeconomics School, the Inaugural Winter Academy and the Society's Programme for the Year Ahead

Helsinki, September 2026

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Dates at a glance

- **Fourth quarter 2026:** planned launch of the new Helsinki Geoeconomics website.
- **16 November 2026–15 January 2027:** complete formation window for the inaugural Winter Academy, including preparation, live teaching, reciprocal practice, feedback and completion. Its eight live 90-minute Modules will be held from 30 November to 2 December.
- **30 November 2026, 23:59 Helsinki time:** deadline for namesake suggestions for the 2027–2028 Associate Fellows cohort and for David A. Baldwin Prize nominations.
- **29 January 2027:** planned Annual General Meeting; formal notice and participation arrangements will follow separately.
- **First quarter 2027:** planned Issue No. 1 of *Hegemon | Helsinki Geoeconomics Monitor* and inaugural episode of *The Geo-Economist*.

Message From the President

DR. JENS HILLEBRAND POHL
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-GENERAL,
HELSINKI GEOECONOMICS SOCIETY

Helsinki Geoeconomics Week 2026 marked a transition from institutional design to sustained common work. Across five days in Helsinki, the Society's Committees, Boards, fellows, partners and guests examined how geoeconomic reasoning can become more disciplined, more useful to institutions and enterprises, and more open to testing.

The Week opened the first intensive working stage of the New Helsinki Process. It established a working rhythm of Committee deliberation, evidence gathering, drafting, verification and later review.

That work now continues through the Task Force and the Society's wider institutional programme.

Helsinki Geoeconomics School, established in 2024 as a separate educational institution, will open its first public formation cycle with the inaugural Winter Academy 2026. The Society is also preparing the third Associate Fellows cohort, the next nomination cycle for the David A. Baldwin Prize in Geoeconomics, a new common website, and new editorial and audio work through *Hegemon* and *The Geo-Economist*.

This Communiqué looks back at what Helsinki set in motion and forward to the 2026–2027 cycle. It also opens two public calls: one to help name the 2027–2028 Associate Fellows cohort and one for nominations to the David A. Baldwin Prize in Geoeconomics.


Pörssisali

I. Helsinki Geoeconomics Week 2026

Helsinki Geoeconomics Week 2026 took place from 10 to 14 August at the Helsinki Bourse Club, with participation in person and online. Its central work comprised twelve working sessions: four each for the Trade, Investment and Finance Committees.

The Committees followed a common progression from defining their domains, through comparative evidence and enterprise-facing questions, to the work that would follow Helsinki. The purpose was disciplined inquiry rather than consensus production.

Trade

The Trade Committee examined market access, export controls and the corporate governance of dependencies. Its discussions connected public measures and cross-border constraints with decisions about markets, suppliers, production systems and enterprise agency.

Investment

The Investment Committee examined ownership, influence and control, transaction screening and mitigation, and risk across the investment life cycle. It asked how institutions and enterprises should distinguish formal ownership from practical control and how mitigation changes the distribution of risk and agency.

Finance

The Finance Committee examined financial access and monetary power, sanctions and payment systems, private gatekeeping, liquidity and enterprise governance. Its work treated finance not only as a resource, but also as infrastructure through which access, constraint and strategic position are organised.

A Public Question

The Week's public symposium, Life Sciences in the Age of Economic Security, addressed critical medicines, security of supply, the public-private interface and corporate geoeconomic practice. It placed a sector of immediate public consequence within the wider inquiry into power, dependency, resilience and enterprise responsibility.

Institutional Continuity

A joint meeting of the Board of Editors and the School's Board of Trustees considered the Manual's intended audience, the need for a common language across professional communities, its practical form and distribution, editorial coherence, and institutional legitimacy and continuity. The discussion was exploratory rather than conclusive.

Each Committee confirmed its continuing co-chairs and chapter leads and adopted an operative post-Helsinki roadmap. The resulting work now proceeds through evidence gathering, drafting, criticism, verification and later review.

II. What Helsinki Set in Motion

Helsinki Geoeconomics Week opened the first intensive working stage of the New Helsinki Process. The Process had been conceived earlier; the Week brought its common method into concentrated Committee work.

The New Helsinki Process develops the Helsinki Manual through successive stages of inquiry, evidence, protected deliberation, drafting, criticism, verification and adjudication. No substantive Rule of the Helsinki Manual was adopted in Helsinki. The Committees instead sharpened their domains, tested questions, identified disagreements and set the next evidence and drafting work in motion.

This sequence protects intellectual openness and institutional authority. It allows a promising proposition to be examined and revised before the evidence and review justify its adoption.

III. From Helsinki into the Task Force Phase

The Trade, Investment and Finance Committees now continue through dedicated post-Helsinki workstreams. The Task Force provides the protected setting in which rapporteurs and contributors will deepen the evidence, refine the questions and prepare material for criticism, verification and later adjudication.

The aim is not to manufacture agreement. It is to build a Manual whose propositions can be traced, tested and revised before adoption.

The same work also demonstrates why the School's educational purpose matters. Difficult geoeconomic reasoning must not only be developed through expert deliberation. It must be made teachable, transferable and capable of surviving challenge within the institutions where decisions are made.

IV. Helsinki Geoeconomics School

Helsinki Geoeconomics School was established in 2024 as a separate educational institution and incorporated in Finland that December. Its curriculum was developed under the auspices of its Board of Trustees. It now brings that formation into public use through the inaugural Winter Academy.

The School and Helsinki Geoeconomics Society are institutionally distinct but connected. The School makes educational decisions and delivers formation. The Society sustains membership and constitutional life and separately administers the David A. Baldwin Fund.

The School forms professionals who must interpret geoeconomic change and make consequential reasoning teachable and transferable to an audience able to question and influence it. In this sense, Helsinki Geoeconomics School is a specialised teachers' seminary for geoeconomics and corporate geoeconomics: its participants work repeatedly as learners, educators and critical audiences.

The wider Helsinki Geoeconomics undertaking brings together four distinct functions: the School forms educators; the Task Force develops the Helsinki Manual through protected research and deliberation; Hegemon carries continuing intellectual work into publication; and the Society sustains constitutional life, relationships and community. These functions remain distinct, while each can strengthen the work of the others.

In 2027, the School plans Programmes in Trade, Investment, Finance, Industrial Policy, and Data & Technology. Detailed calendars will be announced separately.

V. What the School Forms

The School forms geoeconomists as integrative generalists who lead through knowledge. They do not replace lawyers, economists, technologists or specialist risk analysts. They frame strategic problems across specialisms, identify and connect the expertise required, and make the resulting judgment teachable and testable where it will be used.

Many exercise this responsibility without carrying the title of teacher. A consultant advising clients, a lawyer briefing boards, an official briefing a minister, a strategist coordinating specialists, a risk leader framing institutional exposure, a trainer developing colleagues or a supervisor testing professional judgment may all perform an educator's function. What makes the function educational is reciprocity: questions, contrary experience and misunderstanding must be able to travel back and affect the explanation, its use and its later revision.

Formation is organised around six connected capabilities:

1. **Frame:** identify the consequential problem, actors, powers, dependencies and constraints.
2. **Connect:** locate the problem across law, public authority, markets, firms, finance, technology, infrastructure, jurisdiction and strategic position.
3. **Translate:** adapt material to a defined audience without distortion.
4. **Teach reciprocally:** encounter questions and challenge, then respond while preserving intellectual direction.
5. **Test understanding:** determine whether learners can reason with the material rather than merely recall it.
6. **Revise and carry forward:** use criticism and evidence to improve teaching in the educator's own setting.

The School teaches a disciplined grammar of inquiry, not a closed doctrine. Its participants move repeatedly among the positions of learner, educator and critical audience. They are expected to prepare, teach, question, test, revise and carry their work into professional settings where an audience can answer back.

VI. The Inaugural Winter Academy

The complete Winter Academy formation window runs from 16 November 2026 to 15 January 2027. Its live centre consists of eight 90-minute Modules held from 30 November to 2 December. Guided preparation and rehearsal begin beforehand; reciprocal practice, audience response, feedback and revision follow the live Modules. Initial completion decisions are made in December, and any permitted remediation is concluded by 15 January. The expected commitment is approximately thirty hours across two Terms, not continuous attendance throughout the formation window.

Term I addresses industrial strategy, technology and production networks. Its four Modules examine strategic commitment, strategic dependence, the state-enterprise bargain and corporate authorship.

Term II addresses data, digital infrastructure and algorithmic governance. Its four Modules examine strategic technology, data and digital infrastructure, technology controls, and AI, data and digital power.

All participants follow one active formation route. They prepare, contribute to the live Modules, develop a Teaching Dossier, work in stable Practicum Groups, undertake a focused reciprocal teaching encounter in each Term, serve as critical audiences to others, revise their work and complete both Terms. It is an active formation rather than a passive content offering.

The full prospectus, tuition and route for requesting early consideration are available through the School's public page at **https://www.geoeconomics.fi/school/**.

VII. Naming the Next Associate Fellows Cohort

The Associate Fellowship Programme began with the Founder Cohort 2024–2025 and continued through the Albert O. Hirschman Cohort 2025–2026 and Susan Strange Cohort 2026–2027. The 2027–2028 cohort will be the third cohort to bear an intellectual namesake.

The Society invites advisory suggestions for the namesake of the 2027–2028 Associate Fellows cohort. Suggestions may be submitted by Society members; current and former Fellows and Associate Fellows; participants in Society or School activities; and members of the wider Helsinki geoeconomics community.

Each suggestion must identify the proposed namesake. It must include a concise rationale of no more than 250 words explaining the person's contribution to geoeconomic thought and the relevance of that contribution to the Society's work. It must also state the submitter's name and professional affiliation.

Submissions should be sent to **secretariat@geoeconomics.fi** with the subject line **Associate Fellows cohort name suggestion**. The deadline is Monday, 30 November 2026, at 23:59 Helsinki time.

Suggestions will inform, but not determine, the Society's decision. The Society will consider the figure's contribution to geoeconomic thought, the distinctiveness of the resulting cohort identity and its coherence with the existing intellectual lineage. This is an advisory namesake call, not an application to join the cohort.

The selected name is intended to be announced at or by the planned Annual General Meeting on Friday, 29 January 2027.

VIII. The David A. Baldwin Prize in Geoeconomics

The Society invites nominations for **The David A. Baldwin Prize in Geoeconomics**, which recognises an exceptional contribution to geoeconomic scholarship. It is open to books and other substantial scholarly publications and is not restricted to Society members, Fellows, Associate Fellows or participants in Society programmes.

An eligible work must be a book, peer-reviewed article, scholarly book chapter or other substantial scholarly publication first published or made publicly available between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026. It must make an original and serious contribution to understanding geoeconomics, economic statecraft, corporate geoeconomics or the relationship between economic instruments and power. The jury must be able to access the nominated work lawfully.

Works in any language are eligible. A nomination for a work not published in English must include an English-language summary of no more than 500 words.

Any individual, including the author, may nominate an eligible work.

Each nomination must include full bibliographic details; a stable link, an electronic copy supplied lawfully, or other access instructions; a statement of no more than 300 words explaining the work's originality, rigour and relevance to geoeconomic scholarship; and a short author biography of no more than 150 words. Where applicable, it must also include the English-language summary described above.

Nominations should be sent to **secretariat@geoeconomics.fi** with the subject line **David A. Baldwin Prize 2026 nomination.** The deadline is Monday, 30 November 2026, at 23:59 Helsinki time.

The Prize will be decided by a jury appointed by the Helsinki Geoeconomics Society. The jury will consider originality, analytical rigour, substantive importance and relevance to understanding power exercised through economic means. It may make one or more honorary mentions and may determine that no award should be made if the nominations do not meet the required standard.

The decision is intended to be announced at or by the planned Annual General Meeting on Friday, 29 January 2027.

The David A. Baldwin Prize in Geoeconomics was first awarded in 2025 to Dr. Milan Babić for *Geoökonomie: Anatomie der neuen Weltordnung* (Suhrkamp Verlag, 2025).

Mr. Talha Haroon received an honorary mention for his paper "The Geoeconomic Legacy of the Bandung Conference: A Post-Colonial Perspective on Global Economic Alliances."

IX. A New Digital Home

A new Helsinki Geoeconomics website is planned for the fourth quarter of 2026. It will provide a common digital home while giving the Society, School, Task Force and Hegemon distinct and intelligible places. Launch details will follow.

X. Hegemon & The Geo-Economist

Issue No. 1 of *Hegemon | Helsinki Geoeconomics Monitor* and the inaugural episode of *The Geo-Economist* are planned for the first quarter of 2027. Together they will extend Helsinki geo-economics into a continuing editorial and audio programme. Themes, contributors and release dates will be announced separately.


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XI. The Year Ahead

The Society's next Annual General Meeting is planned for Friday, 29 January 2027. Formal notice, agenda, time and participation arrangements will be sent to members separately.

Planning sequence

- **Fourth quarter 2026:** planned new website.
- **16 November 2026–15 January 2027:** complete formation window for the inaugural Winter Academy, with eight live Modules from 30 November to 2 December and preparation, reciprocal practice, feedback and completion activity around them.
- **30 November 2026, 23:59 Helsinki time:** deadline for namesake suggestions for the 2027–2028 Associate Fellows cohort and for David A. Baldwin Prize nominations.
- **29 January 2027:** planned Annual General Meeting and intended date by which the cohort name and Prize decision will be announced.
- **First quarter 2027:** planned *Hegemon* Issue No. 1 and inaugural episode of *The Geo-Economist*.
- **2027:** planned School Programmes in Trade, Investment, Finance, Industrial Policy, and Data & Technology; detailed calendars will follow separately.

The Society thanks its members, Fellows, Associate Fellows, Committee participants, educators, partners and guests for the work carried through Helsinki and for their continued confidence as the New Helsinki Process, Helsinki Geoeconomics School and the Society's 2026–2027 programme take shape.

The two calls set out in Sections VII and VIII are now open and close on 30 November 2026 at 23:59 Helsinki time. The School prospectus and route for requesting early consideration are available through the School's public page at **https://www.geoeconomics.fi/school/**.