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Expected to present a major challenge

PST is increasingly concerned that Russian intelligence and security services attempt to recruit Ukrainians in Norway to make them collect information or carry out other unlawful activities on their behalf.

– As there are currently around 100 000 Ukrainians in Norway, we expect this to be a particular challenge in the time to come. Ukrainians are located all over Norway, which makes this a relevant challenge for most municipalities and districts, according to Head of Sub Section in PST, Atle Tangen.

– PST would like to establish a closer dialogue with the Ukrainian community in Norway to raise their consciousness and vigilance towards this challenge. This will enable the Ukrainian community and the rest of the society to implement the necessary preventive measures, Tangen says.

Targeted activity from Russia

In the annual national threat assessment for 2026, PST emphasises the expected increased activity from the Russian intelligence services in Norway. This is, among other things, due to Norway's many military targets, as well as more allied presence and exercise activity.

– Russian intelligence services' room for action in Norway has become reduced since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. This means that the Russian intelligence services have to adjust their methods, and attempts at recruiting Ukrainians in Norway is an example of this adjustment, says Tangen.

– The purpose of these recruitment attempts is to get hold of information, identify various circumstances or complete other missions in Norway. The information they collect can be used to carry out influence operations or to prepare acts of sabotage.

Attempts at recruitment can take various forms

– These recruitment attempts come in many disguises. Ukrainians in Norway may be exposed to pressure or threats. Threats could for instance be directed towards family members staying in Russian-occupied areas, Tangen explains.

The Russian intelligence and security services may also attempt to recruit by offering various kinds of rewards, to make the recruitment take place voluntarily. Such a situation may rapidly change, when what starts off as a mere reward, moves on to the use of pressure and threats. The Russian services could also operate in a covert manner. A person being recruited does not necessarily understand what they are involved in or who they work for.

– Recruitment attempts happen through digital as well as physical channels. Persons with a Ukrainian background may be identified by Russian intelligence services. They acquire an overview of where the Ukrainians come from, family relations, contacts in their home country, working background from Ukraine, previous contact with Russian authorities, in addition to what the persons are currently doing in Norway, says Tangen.

– The introductory contact is usually friendly, but after some time the tone may change and demands will be made. The Ukrainians may for instance be requested to provide various pieces of information. This could be information connected to their place of work, circle of acquaintances or other circumstances.

Recent example of a recruitment attempt

PST knows about several cases where Ukrainians in Norway have been attempted recruited.

– Recently, one such recruitment attempt took place in South-Eastern Norway. In this case, a person of Ukrainian origin had already been mapped by the Russian intelligence services. They had knowledge about the person's background from Ukraine, family relations and present life in Norway, Tangen explains.

To begin with, the approach was friendly and appeared almost accidental. After a while, the dialogue became more regular. The person was told that it would be desirable if they could carry out concrete tasks, among other connected to circumstances related to Norwegian defence and preparedness and emergency plans. No threats were made, but pressure was exerted.

– This recruitment attempt is an illustration of the seriousness and the reality of the threats we are facing, says Tangen.

What does PST do?

PST is working actively with such threats, and we implement the necessary measures to investigate, counter and prevent this type of activity.

Information for individuals who have been contacted by Russian intelligence services in Norway

Here you will find information about what you can do and how we can help you.

What can you do?

If you are experiencing attempts at being contacted or recruited by Russian intelligence and security services in Norway, we want you to contact PST or the police.

If you are uncertain about whether you have been contacted by Russian intelligence and security services, we want you to contact PST or the police. We can help you assess whether this is an attempted recruitment or not.

If you suspect a member of your family, a friend, colleague, student or someone else to be exposed to recruitment attempts, please do not hesitate to share this information with PST or the police.

How to contact PST?

E-mail: post@pst.politiet.no

Telephone: 23 30 50 00

Address: P.O. Box 4773 Nydalen, 0421 Oslo

[Report your concern here.](#)

We look forward to hearing from you.

What happens when you notify PST about a concern?

When you report a concern, PST's experts will make an assessment of your worries. We will consider the seriousness of the matter, whether we have received similar reports in the past and whether we need more information to be able to follow-up your concern.

If you use the tip form to send us information, we will confirm that we have received it. After that, you will probably not hear from us again. This does not mean that your information was irrelevant or that we do not work on it.

We will handle any information you may give us confidentially.

When submitting your report, we would like you to give us your name and phone number. This gives us an opportunity to contact you if we have any questions. If you do not want to leave any contact information, we nevertheless urge you to give us any information you consider relevant.

We take extra care with children

Information that concerns children is important to us. It can help ensure that children get help early, before the situation gets worse.

When a tip-off concerns a child, we take extra care. For safety reasons, we adapt the follow-up to the child's age and situation, and we work closely with child welfare services, the health sector and other institutions that can help protect the child.

If we need to speak with the child, we make sure the child is not exposed to any unnecessary strain, and we cooperate closely with parents or other care persons.

Do you want to be anonymous because you fear the person you inform us about will be informed?

Please note the following:

- We handle all information (in writing and by phone) confidentially.
- We will not tell the person(s) concerned that you have informed us.
- We handle sensitive information every day, and your need for security is taken very seriously.
- Any information we get is subjected to a strict duty of confidentiality.

In some cases, it could be relevant to open an investigation. If so, you may be contacted to make a more detailed statement. Later, you could be asked to make a witness statement in a trial.

What if you are bound by professional secrecy?

Perhaps you possess information which you cannot disclose because you are subjected to a duty of confidentiality? If your information concerns or may concern serious crime, you may in some cases have a duty to inform PST or the police to prevent serious criminal acts. You do not need to know for sure or have substantial evidence to report suspicious activity.

Do you need help right now?

In an emergency situation:

Call the police on 112 if there is an imminent threat to life or health.

Call the ambulance on 113 if there is a medical emergency situation.

Call the Fire Department on 110 if there is a fire or danger of explosion.



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