



# What are state threats?

The Netherlands is an open society. We work together with partners, both at home and abroad, and this cooperative approach has done a great deal for our country. We cherish this tradition. But the world is changing: we have become more dependent on digital technology. The economy, our security and the geopolitical landscape are becoming ever more intertwined. While all these developments offer opportunities, they also entail risks to national security. State actors are becoming increasingly assertive about pursuing their national interests, and they are prepared to use tactics that can undermine our prosperity, stability and openness, whether by design or inadvertently. In both cases we use the term 'state threat'. We seek to protect our way of life from such threats.

State threats manifest themselves in various ways.



## Foreign interference

- Systematic use of tactics that could disrupt the Netherlands' political system and society;
- this can disrupt or undermine the functioning of the democratic legal order and our open society;
- for example by exerting influence over certain communities by levying taxes upon citizens who live abroad.



## Influencing democratic processes and institutions

- The use of digital technology;
- for the purpose of manipulation, sabotage, disinformation and digital espionage;
- to undermine the government's legitimacy;
- for example, through covert political influencing.



## Economic security

- Acquiring technical and scientific knowledge, corporate takeovers, investment in critical infrastructure;
- this can create dependence and compromise social continuity or information leaks;
- for example: acquiring a product or service that plays a major role in our critical infrastructure, or taking over an energy company.

## Whole of society approach

The government is committed to a comprehensive, whole of society approach, with the involvement of all its partners in both the public and private sectors. In this way, we can develop a system and a form of partnership that lends itself to a custom made and case-by-case approach. Agreements and measures range from prevention to aftercare, using existing initiatives and partnerships. This approach is aimed at state actors, but there are also other threats and actors that impact economic security.