

ARENGUSEIRE KESKUS

Rahvusvaheliste mõttekodade teemad

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

[World Economic Outlook, April 2020: The Great Lockdown](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic is inflicting high and rising human costs worldwide, and the necessary protection measures are severely impacting economic activity. As a result of the pandemic, the global economy is projected to contract sharply by –3 percent in 2020, much worse than during the 2008–09 financial crisis. In a baseline scenario—which assumes that the pandemic fades in the second half of 2020 and containment efforts can be gradually unwound—the global economy is projected to grow by 5.8 percent in 2021 as economic activity normalizes, helped by policy support.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

[Behavioural Insights and Organisations - Fostering Safety Culture](#)

Behavioural insights (BI) has become widely used by public bodies around the world, mostly towards improving the way policies are implemented and influencing individual behaviour. As the field of BI evolves to tackle more complex policy issues, there is widespread perception that BI can and should go beyond the study of individual-level decision processes for higher impact. This report presents research on applying BI to changing the behaviour of organisations, with a focus on fostering elements of a safety culture in the energy sector. It presents comparative findings from experiments with energy regulators in Canada, Ireland, Mexico and Oman, as well as guidance for applying BI to safety culture going forward.

[What role might the social outcomes of education play during the COVID-19 lockdown?](#)

While the economic benefits of education have been demonstrated in a number of areas, greater educational attainment is also positively associated with a variety of social outcomes that are important during the COVID-19 outbreak. Data collected before the outbreak show that people with a tertiary degree are less likely to report suffering from depression and they are more likely to be in contact with their friends and family physically and through the Internet. During the confinement period, the positive social outcomes of education are more important than ever in equipping individuals to face the crisis. Good mental health, a strong social network and a healthy lifestyle are all associated with the choices individuals made prior to COVID-19, and their choice of whether to continue with their education or not will have been amongst the most important.

[Testing the evidence, how good are public sector responsiveness measures and how to improve them?](#)

This paper analyses two common uses of the responsiveness concept in the public management and political science literature: external political efficacy and satisfaction with health and education services. The decline of people sense of influence in public affairs and perceptions about the quality of public services are two key concerns affecting policymaking. The fact that responsiveness measures are increasingly being collected in non-official and official household surveys and the range of covariates available make it possible to test their statistical accuracy. Accuracy encompasses both reliability (i.e. if the measure produces consistent information over time) and validity (i.e. if the measure reflects the underlying concept being measured). This paper finds good evidence on the accuracy of political efficacy measures. Although no sufficiently strong evidence on the accuracy of satisfaction with health metrics is stronger than for education services signaling the relevance of other aspects such as direct exposure to the service and its intensity, as well as the different attributes shaping satisfaction levels. Findings from this paper support some of the conclusions in the Responsiveness chapter of the UN Citi Praia Handbook on Governance Statistics.

[Coronavirus special edition - Back to school](#)

The COVID 19 pandemic has disrupted education around the world. As the first shock passes, planning is taking place on two timescales: the short-term challenges in the return to school, and the challenges over the next 18-24 months as systems work to build resilience and adaptability for the future.

[Workforce composition, productivity and pay - The role of firms in wage inequality](#)

In many OECD countries, low productivity growth has coincided with rising inequality. Widening wage and productivity gaps between firms may have contributed to both developments. This paper uses a new harmonised cross-country linked employer-employee dataset for 14 OECD countries to analyse the role of firms in wage inequality. The main finding is that, on average across countries, changes in the dispersion of average wages between firms explain about half of the changes in overall wage inequality. Two thirds of these changes in between-firm wage inequality are accounted for by changes in productivity-related premia that firms pay their workers above common market wages. The remaining third can be attributed to changes in workforce composition, including the sorting of high-skilled workers into high-paying firms.

[Identifying and measuring developments in artificial intelligence - Making the impossible possible](#)

This paper identifies and measures developments in science, algorithms and technologies related to artificial intelligence (AI). Using information from scientific publications, open source software (OSS) and patents, it finds a marked increase in AI-related developments over recent years. Since 2015, AI-related publications have increased by 23% per year; from 2014 to 2018, AI-related OSS contributions grew at a rate three times greater than other OSS contributions; and AI-related inventions comprised, on average, more than 2.3% of IP5 patent families in 2017. China's growing role in the AI space also emerges. The analysis relies on a three-pronged approach based on established bibliometric and patent-based methods, and machine learning (ML) implemented on purposely collected OSS data.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

[Energy Transition Index 2020: from crisis to rebound](#)

The world's energy transition has made slow and steady progress over the past five years, but the COVID-19 crisis risks derailing long-term progress. Will recovery and the shifting global energy order shape new opportunities for picking up the pace?

[Impact of COVID-19 on the Global Financial System](#)

As the human and economic costs of the COVID-19 pandemic have unfolded, the global financial system has been both a source of strength—with banks and fintechs helping distribute support to small businesses and households in need—and an area of potential risk, with record levels of market volatility and growing concern around credit losses. Governments, central banks, regulators, and international organizations have moved rapidly to address the economic collapse and financial fallout, but questions remain around how policy should continue to evolve to preserve financial stability.

The Forum's Platform for Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems has convened several virtual roundtables since early March—with stakeholders from banks, asset managers, fintechs, insurers, investors, international organizations, and central banks—to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on the global financial system. This briefing summarizes the outcomes of these initial discussions, highlighting participants' views on financial developments and on the highest priorities for policy-makers moving forward.

[Winning the Race for Survival: How New Manufacturing Technologies are Driving Business-Model Innovation](#)

As most manufacturing firms continue to realize their revenues through traditional channels, COVID-19 has created the need for rapid and radical innovation in both business and operating models. The future belongs to those who are able to manage uncertainty and innovate rapidly.

Journal of Futures Studies

[Collective Intelligence to Solve the MegaCrisis](#)

The coronavirus is a stark reminder of the devastating damage that could be inflicted by cyberattacks, superbugs, freak weather and a variety of other threats. These wild cards are in addition to the existential challenge posed by climate change, gross inequality, financial meltdowns, autocratic governments, terrorism and other massive problems collectively called the Global MegaCrisis.

I sense the world is so frightened by the Coronavirus disaster that people are searching for new solutions. They seem ready to break from the past that is no longer working. Climate change is starting to bite, for instance, and there is a growing consensus that the status quo is no longer sustainable.

[GARMENT WORKERS TO WOMEN LEADERS AND THE WISE E-BUDDHA: CAMBODIA 2050](#)

In late 2019, the Asian Development Bank (2020) facilitated a Futures foresight workshop (Kanagaraj 2019) to map out complimentary pathways to the development of Cambodia's vision 2030 (to become an upper middle income country) and eventually Vision 2050 (to become a middle income country). [ii] As it was a one day workshop, we focused on a variant of the Six Pillars process (Inayatullah, 2015) using in particular Causal Layered Analysis,

Scenarios, Visioning and Backcasting. The intent was to enhance futures literacy in the nation and articulate areas that the Asian Development Bank and the government of Cambodia could work together. While there were numerous research areas, the role of women, technology, and economic diversity stood out.

European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

[Social governance in the European Union: Managing complex systems](#)

Whereas economic governance is now undertaken in the EU through a regulated, 'hard' framework, there is no equivalent framework for social governance. At present, social governance in the EU functions mainly within the 'soft', unregulated realms, although it is also marked by some 'hard' governance mechanisms. This paper aims to give an overview of the social aspects of EU governance. It looks at existing EU social governance mechanisms and tools, including their current state of play, the debates that surround them and possible avenues for their further development. It is an updated and revised edition of a publication from November 2017: PE 614.579.

[Coronavirus: Transport support package](#)

On 29 April 2020, the European Commission adopted four legislative proposals to provide relief to the transport sector. The objective of these proposals, which taken together cover all modes – aviation, rail, maritime, inland navigation and road – is to ease and resolve some of the practical issues transport operators are confronted with due to the coronavirus crisis. The urgent procedure has been requested for all four proposals, and Parliament is expected to vote during the May plenary session on whether to apply the urgent procedure and move directly to voting its position on the proposals.

[World Health Organization: Is it fit for purpose?](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19, the disease resulting from the novel coronavirus SARS-COV2, a pandemic on 11 March 2020, putting the United Nations (UN) agency in the global spotlight. The WHO is coordinating international efforts to fight the virus, for example by issuing guidelines on preventing and treating the disease, and coordinating research into testing and vaccines. Critics argue that the WHO was overly accommodating of China, and as a result failed to handle the pandemic effectively in its early stages. According to them, the WHO too readily accepted Chinese reassurances that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission. The WHO also failed to hold China to account for its initial cover-up, and even praised its transparency. Even before coronavirus, the WHO already had a mixed track record, including, on the one hand, successful eradication of smallpox, and on the other, a delayed response to the West African Ebola epidemic of 2014, which may have cost thousands of lives. Its failures, both in the Covid-19 pandemic and in previous health crises, highlight long-standing problems: the agency is weak, underfunded, and its complex organisational structure can get in the way of effective action. Underlying such weaknesses is the fact that the WHO is entirely dependent on cooperation from its member states and can only act within the limits set by them. While Covid-19 has highlighted many of the WHO's weaknesses, it is also a reminder that diseases respect no borders, and that the organisation's task of global coordination has become more necessary than ever.

[New Developments in Digital Services](#)

The study lays out predictions for digital services in the next one to ten years and provides recommendations for action for the European Parliament in preparation for the Digital Services Act.

European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC)

[Socio-economic vulnerability and epidemic risk by age. Implications for the exit strategy from COVID-19](#)

In designing an exit strategy from COVID-19, governments need to balance the risks posed by possible recrudescence of the epidemic when lifting containment measures, which is higher for vulnerable groups of populations, against the urgency to reopen established economic activities and reduce the social and psychological vulnerability of the population subjected to unprecedented social distancing measures. In this note we try to quantify, on the one hand, vulnerability from a socio-economic and psychological perspective and the epidemiological risk associated with the patterns of social contacts, on the other. For both aspects we have adopted a demographic perspective, looking in particular at the distribution of vulnerability and social contact patterns by age.

McKinsey&Company

[How growth can help Europe's companies face the coming economic crisis](#)

In this article, we examine why Europe lags on commercializing its ideas, review its assets for innovation and future growth, and consider how executives can build on the assets to meet the fundamental economic challenge of the pandemic crisis.

[Crushing coronavirus uncertainty: The big 'unlock' for our economies](#)

Uncertainty about the continuing spread of the coronavirus makes people fear for their health and their lives. Uncertainty about their livelihoods makes them cautious about spending. Under high uncertainty, business leaders find it impossible to make reliable plans for investment. The objective now must be to crush uncertainty as soon as possible. As we have seen in previous crises, when uncertainty subsides, confidence returns and economic recovery unlocks—and the COVID-19 crisis has created the highest level of uncertainty in 35 years

[Stability in the storm: US banks in the pandemic and the next normal](#)

So far, banks have acted swiftly and with resolve to meet the first acute phase of crisis. Now, they must show resilience under great uncertainty, beginning the return from lockdown and reimagining their new postcrisis future. Amid widespread economic struggles and heightened disparities, banks have the opportunity to rediscover their purpose and reform their contract with society, providing stability in the pandemic storm.

[How airlines can chart a path to zero-carbon flying](#)

Because of the scale of the challenge, any solution will require a multistakeholder approach that also includes governments, tech players, and suppliers. The trick is to create a suitable regulatory framework and supporting incentives so that no single player is penalized for going it alone.

[COVID-19 implications for life sciences R&D: Recovery and the next normal](#)

COVID-19 has severely disrupted pharma and medtech R&D. Leaders should prepare along three horizons—safeguarding patients and employees, adapting operations for a recovery, and building for the next normal.

[The future is not what it used to be: Thoughts on the shape of the next normal](#)

It is impossible to know what will happen. But it is possible to consider the lessons of the past, both distant and recent, and on that basis, to think constructively about the future. We believe the following elements will be important in the shaping of the next normal—and that business leaders will need to come to terms with them.

Centre for European Policy Studies CEPS

[HOW TO FULLY REAP THE BENEFITS OF THE INTERNAL MARKET FOR E-COMMERCE?](#)

This paper provides a framework for maximising current and potential benefits of e-commerce for the single market while minimising economic and societal costs. It takes stock of the role of the e-Commerce Directive and analyses new challenges arising in the age of platforms. Forward-looking solutions are presented to enhance cross-border e-commerce in the EU, facilitate access to digital copyrighted content and improve the sustainability of online platforms. Finally, the paper reflects on the planned digital services act, outlining policy recommendations.

[THE GREAT LOCKDOWN - Was it worth it?](#)

What the IMF calls the ‘great lockdown’ has thrown Europe and the global economy into deep recession. When putting their countries into lockdown, governments essentially pushed the panic button, mostly in the face of rising fatalities. Was this the right choice? The answer is usually framed in terms of lives saved versus jobs lost.

In this Policy Insight, Daniel Gros takes a closer look at the actual medical care expenses engendered by the pandemic so far and a bottom-up calculation of hospitalisation costs and finds that the economic costs of the great lockdown, while huge, might still be lower than the medical costs that an unchecked spread of the virus would have generated. There might thus be no need to assign an economic value to the lives saved to reach the conclusion that an unchecked spread of Covid-19 would have led to even higher costs than the great lockdown.

[SHOWING TRUE ILLIBERAL COLOURS - Rule of law vs Orbán’s pandemic politics](#)

This Policy Insight assesses the scope of what has now become known as the ‘Enabling Act’, which grants Viktor Orbán’s government the power to rule by decree. It considers the implications of this Act for the effective democratic control of executive actions and other checks and balances, such as media pluralism and freedom of association.

The authors note that the EU has so far been unable to halt rule of law backsliding by Hungary’s government, despite the fact that it has violated the founding principles of the Treaty on European Union, as enshrined in Article 2 for over a decade.

The paper proposes more EU centralisation in the assessment of all member states’ compliance with the triad of rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights. It suggests, first, the enforcement of EU standards by the European Commission and the Luxembourg Court through ‘rule of law infringement proceedings’, and second, the adoption of an interinstitutional EU Periodic Review (EUPR) of Article 2 TEU values.

[HOW IS EU COOPERATION ON THE COVID-19 CRISIS PERCEIVED IN MEMBER STATES?](#)

Even the most optimistic of observers recognise the coronavirus pandemic as one of the greatest challenges the EU has ever faced to its capacity to manage crises, muster solidarity and demonstrate supranational added value.

Drawing on the expertise of researchers in the EPIN network, Sophia Russack and Steven Blockmans asked how EU cooperation was perceived in their respective national contexts, via an expert poll. Nineteen institutes from 15 different countries, plus Iceland, responded to their call. The introduction and analysis below reflects the unique insights that were gleaned from this exercise.

[PROTECTING EMPLOYMENT IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS - What is the EU's €100 billion going to buy?](#)

This paper briefly analyses the proposal by the European Commission to establish SURE, the 'European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency'.

The SURE facility would borrow up to €100 billion on the financial markets, lend it to member states to finance short-time work schemes and similar measures, using guarantees from the member states themselves.

The analysis makes the point that the scheme should be seen, first and foremost, as a proof of European solidarity to counter hostile propaganda from Russia and China about the EU's ineffectiveness. It can also have an impact on national policies to deal with the coronavirus and to assist the most damaged and/or fiscally weak member states, but this effect is likely to be limited. Potentially, the most important feature of SURE is that it explicitly refers to itself as the forerunner of a future European Unemployment Insurance scheme.

European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

[Europe's hidden weapon in combatting COVID-19: The Single Market](#)

Johan Bjerkem underlines the key role the Single Market has played in tackling the current crisis, and why it should now be strengthened.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

[Reopening the coronavirus-closed economy](#)

In the early days of the epidemic, decentralized decisionmakers – governors, mayors, and leaders of major institutions like universities – shut down major portions of the economy in response to concerns over the exponential growth of the epidemic and the threat of potential deaths. Now, the policy challenge is how to reopen the economy and get people back to work while achieving public health goals.

Bruegel

[Racing against COVID-19: a vaccines strategy for Europe](#)

This Policy Contribution proposes a staged support scheme to tackle the COVID-19 vaccine challenge and a moon shot programme to meet the challenge of future pandemics.

European Policy Centre (EPC)

[The economic impact of COVID-19 on the EU: From the frying pan into the fire](#)

The world is facing an unprecedented economic crisis due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when the first instinct is to focus on the national level and greater sovereignty and self-reliance, the best strategy to answer the crisis lies in greater cooperation.

Fabian Zuleeg analyses the onset of this crisis and provides sound predictions of future economic impacts by applying lessons from previous recessions.

[The upcoming New Pact on Migration and Asylum: Will it be up to the challenge?](#)

A courageous and ambitious New Pact on Migration and Asylum is one that strengthens the right to asylum; sets the conditions for more equal relationships with third countries when it comes to managing migration; and puts forward a mechanism that can foster genuine solidarity between member states.

When the new Commission entered into office in December 2019, it promised a fresh start on migration, breaking the deadlock between member states on long-awaited reforms.

Unfortunately, based on a range of leaked papers and official (draft) documents that have been circulating since late 2019, it seems that the Commission may opt to reduce the New Pact to a collection of watered-down compromises on responsibility-sharing. It also appears to be doubling down on control-oriented measures.

This Discussion Paper argues that a different approach is needed to set up an EU asylum and migration policy that is efficient, respects asylum seekers' fundamental rights and can prevent and meaningfully address future humanitarian emergencies.

Friends of Europa

[In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, Europe must prepare for life after oil](#)

For the first time in history, in the wake of the corona crisis, US oil prices have gone negative thanks to record lows in global oil demand. This pandemic has revealed deep-seated structural vulnerabilities in our fossil fuel-dependent economy. The most important scientific concept needed to understand these vulnerabilities is 'Energy Return on Investment' (EROI).

[The EU and the Covid-19 crisis: emerging stronger or weaker on the international stage?](#)

A crisis is like a storm. When it is raging, we are all fully occupied in saving our livelihoods and our property. Only once the storm subsides can we survey the landscape to determine how much has changed, temporarily or permanently, and how much we ourselves must change so we are prepared to face similar storms in the future. There are six issues in particular that will define the EU's role in the post Covid-19 world and determine whether it will shape, or be shaped, by the new international order that emerges.

Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

[Covid-19 calls for European strategic autonomy: The EU needs to manage global dependencies without pulling up the drawbridges](#)

Covid-19 has revealed the risks of Europe's global dependencies in strategic sectors and intensified the debate on European strategic autonomy. While some argue for a self-sufficient Europe, a smart approach to globalization is in the EU's interest.

Atlantic Council

[Drone attacks against critical infrastructure: A real and present threat](#)

The use of drones as weapons in the Middle East and North Africa has grown rapidly in recent years, especially as non-state actors from the Houthis in Yemen to militants in Syria seek to level the playing field. Often powered by widely available commercial technology, these systems present a real and present security challenge. What should policymakers do to adapt to this new threat? How can they best structure defenses and leverage available technology to protect key assets?

[What world post-COVID-19? Three scenarios](#)

This paper is a preliminary look at the geopolitical implications of a crisis that is still unfolding. Three scenarios are sketched out for the possible direction of the global system post-COVID-19. The Scowcroft Center's Foresight, Strategy, and Risks Initiative will continue to follow the course of the coronavirus, paying close attention to its geopolitical, economic, and social implications. In a situation of intense crisis, scenarios help to reduce the scope of possibilities, decrease uncertainty, and make the different options more visible.

UK Institute for Government

[A four-nation exit strategy](#)

The UK's four-nation lockdown exit strategy could create confusion amongst the public and lead to non-compliance of guidance and rules if not communicated transparently. This report says there may be legitimate reasons – such as evidence that the coronavirus risk has fallen more in certain parts of the UK – for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to move at different speeds in lifting the lockdown.

Institute for Futures Studies

[Three Mistakes in the Moral Reasoning About the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

The response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the public discourse about the pandemic, can be used to illustrate three common mistakes in moral reasoning. The first of these mistakes involves a failure to realize that trade-offs are unavoidable when it comes to public decision. The second of these is a failure by public officials to weigh different interests against each other in a democratically legitimate way. The third is a mistaken application of the notorious "precautionary principle". I suggest that these three mistakes have a common source, namely, a failure to engage in holistic (all-things-considered) reasoning.

Successful and failed episodes of democratization: conceptualization, identification, and description

What explains successful democratization? This paper makes four contributions towards providing more sophisticated answers to this question. Building on the comparative casestudy and large-N literature, it first presents a new approach to conceptualizing the discrete beginning of a period of political liberalization, tracing its progression, and classifying episodes by successful vs. different types of failing outcomes, thus avoiding potentially fallacious assumptions of unit homogeneity. Second, it provides the first ever dataset (EPLIB) of the full universe of episodes from 1900 to 2018, and third, it demonstrates the value of this approach, showing that while several established covariates are useful for predicting outcomes, none of them seem to explain the onset of a period of liberalization. Fourth, it illustrates how the identification of episodes makes it possible to study processes quantitatively using sequencing methods to detail the importance of the order of change for liberalization outcomes.

Establishing pathways to democracy using domination analysis

How does the order in which liberalization unfolds affect the likelihood for a successful democratic transition? Dahl was among the first to argue that the sequence matters for the outcome when it comes to democratization. This paper builds upon his work and empirically analyzes pathways to democracy employing the newly developed method of domination analysis. We are the first to demonstrate three key findings: 1) There is a clear structure in terms of order of how most episodes of liberalization from authoritarian rule develop; 2) Such sequences are different in key respects for failed and successful episodes of liberalization; and 3) clean election elements - in the capacity of electoral management bodies - stand out as developing earlier in episodes that successfully lead to democracy.

European Council on foreign relations

The meaning of systemic rivalry: Europe and China beyond the pandemic

- Beijing's handling of the pandemic has changed long-standing European assumptions about its reliability as a crisis actor and its approach to the European project.
- Europe's immediate medical-supply needs and dire economic situation will limit the scope of shifts in its China policy – for now.
- But, on issues ranging from supply chains to ideological competition, European governments have rebalanced their view of what dynamics with China should look like in the aftermath.
- The crisis is also intensifying demands from European parliaments, media outlets, and citizens for Europe to put its China policy on a more open, accountable, and values-based footing.
- Governments' pursuit of a "business as usual" approach to Beijing is growing harder to sustain.

[The post-coronavirus world is already here](#)

- The pandemic will likely magnify existing geopolitical dynamics and test the strength of Europe's democratic systems.
- Europe needs a new kind of globalisation capable of striking a balance between the advantages of open markets and interdependence, and between the sovereignty and security of countries.
- Europe should work to prevent the US-China rivalry from having negative repercussions in certain regions of the world – particularly Africa.
- European leaders need to focus on meeting the immediate needs of healthcare systems, providing an income for people who cannot work, and giving businesses guarantees.
- The European model will only mean something in the eyes of the world if we can successfully promote solidarity among EU member states.

MIT Solan

[AI, Robots, and Ethics in the Age of COVID-19](#)

No doubt, more of us are overlooking our former uneasiness about robots and AI when the technology's perceived value outweighs its anticipated downsides. But there are dangers to this newfound embrace of AI and robots. With robots replacing more and more job functions in order to allow humans to coexist as we grasp for some semblance of normalcy, it's important to consider what's next. What will happen when humans want their former jobs back? And what will we do if tracking for safety's sake becomes too invasive or seems too creepy yet is already an entrenched practice?

[Why Innovation's Future Isn't \(Just\) Open](#)

Innovating with external partners doesn't always give companies a competitive advantage. It needs to be balanced with internal efforts.

Policy Horizons Canada

[Exploring Social Futures](#)

Social foresight relates to the diverse, complex, and changing web of sentiments, bonds, and processes by which we relate to each other. It questions how these social functions could change in the future, how these could combine to disrupt the social system, what future social systems might look like, and what those changes mean in terms of policy implications, opportunities, and challenges.