

Rahvusvaheliste mõttekodade uued teemad jaanuar 2021

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

[COVID-19 Hits the Poor Harder, but Scaled-Up Testing Can Help](#)

Across the world, poor neighborhoods have experienced more COVID-19 infections and deaths than wealthier ones. The pandemic and the efforts to control it have disproportionately hurt the poor, both within and across countries. Gaining a better understanding of what accounts for the disparate health impacts across income groups can help to inform policymakers on what can be done about it.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

[OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2020 Issue 2, Preliminary version](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic will cast a long shadow over the world's economies and the economic outlook is very uncertain. This issue of the OECD Economic Outlook analyses the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy and puts forward projections for output, employment, prices, fiscal and current account balances. This issue includes a general assessment of the macroeconomic situation, a series of notes on the current policy challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and a chapter summarising developments and providing projections for each individual country. Coverage is provided for all OECD members as well as for selected partner economies.

[OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2020](#)

The OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2020 examines trends and analyses emerging opportunities and challenges in the digital economy. It highlights how OECD countries and partner economies are taking advantage of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the Internet to meet their public policy objectives. Through comparative evidence, it informs policy makers of regulatory practices and policy options to help maximise the potential of the digital economy as a driver for innovation and inclusive growth. This third edition of the OECD Digital Economy Outlook provides a holistic overview of converging trends, policy developments and data on both the supply and demand sides of the digital economy. It illustrates how the digital transformation is affecting economies and societies. Finally, it provides a special focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic is amplifying opportunities and challenges from the digital transformation.

[OECD Pensions Outlook 2020](#)

The 2020 edition of the OECD Pensions Outlook examines a series of policy options to help governments improve the sustainability and resilience of pension systems. It considers how to ensure that policy makers balance the trade-off between the short-term and long-term consequences of policy responses to COVID-19; how to determine and assess the adequacy of retirement income; how funded pension arrangements can support individuals in non-standard forms of work to save for retirement; how to select default investment strategies; how to address the potential negative consequences from frequent switching of investment strategies; and, how retirement income arrangements can share both the investment and longevity risks among different stakeholders in a sustainable manner. This edition also discusses how governments can communicate in a way that helps people choose their optimal investment strategies.

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[New data collection on accrued-to-date social insurance pension entitlements in a national accounts context. Main findings](#)

This paper analyses results on social insurance pension liabilities and entitlements across OECD countries, on the basis of a new data collection. In addition to information on employment-related schemes (covered in the central framework of the national accounts), this new data collection also includes information related to social security pension schemes. As the latter make up a large part of pension liabilities and entitlements, this new data collection provides important new insights into the role of social insurance pensions across OECD countries and on how countries may be affected by ageing populations. The results show that pension liabilities and entitlements are, on average, more significant in European countries than in non-European OECD countries. Furthermore, the results show an increasing preference for defined contribution schemes over defined benefit schemes for private pension schemes, possibly in order to address some of the challenges brought about by an ageing society.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

[Global COVID-19 FinTech Market Rapid Assessment Study](#)

Since the onset of the pandemic, the fintech industry has seen increased growth. In 2020, firms saw an average rise of 13% compared to 11% growth in previous years. The expansion of transactions was noticeably higher in countries with strict COVID-19 lockdown measures, where growth was 50% higher compared to firms who were operating in countries with looser lockdown measures.

This report was developed in collaboration with the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance at the University of Cambridge Judge Business School and the World Bank Group, and supported by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Ministry of Finance of Luxembourg.

[Partnership against Cybercrime](#)

Of all the types of crime, cybercrime continues to increase at the fastest rate. It causes immense, though not always visible, damage to economies and societies.

The World Economic Forum created the Partnership against Cybercrime initiative to address the global challenge posed by cybercrime by exploring ways to amplify public-private cooperation against this crime and overcome existing barriers to cooperation. The initiative brought together key private- and public-sector stakeholders, including leading law enforcement agencies, international organizations, cybersecurity companies, service and platform providers, global corporations and not-for-profit alliances.

The group's approach was not only to understand the challenges, but also to design forward-looking and action-oriented solutions, presented in this report.

Vaata lisaks: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/future-series-cybersecurity-emerging-technology-and-systemic-risk>

[Vision Towards a Responsible Future of Consumption: Collaborative action framework for consumer industries](#)

The global pandemic has underscored the underlying and persistent problems that predated COVID-19 and have exacerbated its effects: climate change; pollution; inequity and inequality; poor education about nutrition; lack of information and resources to enable healthier lifestyles; and eroded levels of consumer trust. As individuals the world over continue to experience the effects of COVID-19, the consumer industries face an urgent call to action. Consumer industries are uniquely positioned to have an outsized influence on how the world emerges from this crisis – these industries employ one in five workers globally and shape billions of people's daily life experiences. In this paper, the World Economic Forum and its partners in the Consumer Industries community and the Future of Consumption

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Platform have come together to share their vision, mission and goals framework for collective action towards a better and more resilient future.

Journal of Futures Studies

[The Future of Marriage](#)

The Future of Marriage is a conceptualization of American marriage in the year 2036 from a U.S. West-coast perspective. The project was developed over the course of five months in 2016 by four graduate students in the MBA Design Strategy program at the California College of the Arts, in a course run by Dr. Jake Dunagan. Using acquired concepts and methods from Strategic Foresight to build future scenarios, The Future of Marriage coalesces these scenarios into a film that explores marriage in the year 2036.

European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA)

[Digital threats to democracy](#)

Until recently, the Netherlands could boast that disinformation has not had a major impact on society in recent years. Rapid technological developments in the field of IT could overturn this picture in the foreseeable future. This report, which we wrote at the request of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and fits in with the Digital Society theme in our Work Programme, provides a broad overview of the technological developments that could play a role in the production and spread of disinformation in the coming years.

[Valued at work](#)

The Rathenau Instituut warns against excessive monitoring in the workplace. Digital tools are there to support us in our work and should not make a robot out of employees. The institute asks employers, employees and the government to set limits on digital tools.

European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

[Older people in the European Union's rural areas: Issues and challenges](#)

One of the key demographic challenges facing rural areas is the ageing population, not only among farmers but also among the rural population in general. This paper examines the demographic profile of older people in the EU's rural areas, and presents a series of issues pertaining to the situation facing older people. Topics covered include health and access to services, issues of social isolation and loneliness, the role of technology and lifelong learning, access to social care, and the impact of climate change. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic has brought the health status of older people more sharply into focus and highlighted their vulnerability. The views of a number of stakeholders are summarised along with the measures available under the EU's rural development policy and other structural funds.

[Study presentation proceedings: The Impact of Unfair Commercial Practices on Competition in the EU Passenger Transport Sector, in particular Air Transport](#)

The study presented in the event aims at identifying and analysing the unfair commercial and trading practices in passenger air transport that not only are detrimental to consumers, but which can also distort competition in the Single Market. Moreover, the discussion during the event also covered competition and consumer protection aspects that arise in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. These proceedings of the study presentation were prepared by the Policy Department for Economic,

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Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

[Slowing down or changing track? Understanding the dynamics of 'Slowbalisation'](#)

Slowbalisation – understood as the slowdown in global integration – is said to have started in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2007-2008. The coronavirus pandemic brought about a further dramatic fall in cross-border movement of goods, services, capital and people, to the extent that commentators have proclaimed the beginning of deglobalisation. This paper examines whether the phenomenon described as slowbalisation is myth or reality, by looking at five different pathways of globalisation: international trade, financial openness, increasing inequality, cross-border social movement, and digital exchanges. The key conclusion is that slowbalisation has not been a uniform trend. While international economic globalisation has indeed slowed, the 'digital leap' and continued inequality suggest that globalisation is merely changing form, not disappearing.

[Geopolitical Aspects of Digital Trade](#)

This in-depth analysis discusses issues in trade in digitally deliverable services and the geopolitics of digital trade policy. Digitally deliverable services are becoming increasingly important for global value chains, both in terms of final products exported to other countries, and in terms of inputs embedded in manufactured goods. To harness the potential of digital trade in services, both the regulation of the digital means by which a service is traded and the regulation of the services themselves have to be accommodative. Digital trade policy is still in its infancy, and many challenges in terms of policy and measurement remain. Looking at regulation of data flows, the EU's focus on privacy policy is incompatible with the laissez-faire approach pursued by the US administration and the political control of the internet by the Chinese government, limiting the potential for trade in digitally deliverable services and plurilateral agreements on digital trade. However, a number of other major economies are following similar approaches to the EU, which creates the potential for cooperation and intensifying trade in digital services. The EU should also increase its competitiveness in this strategically important services sector by completing the single market with respect to services and capital, and by strengthening research and development in digital technologies.

[Data subjects, digital surveillance, AI and the future of work](#)

The report provides an in-depth overview of the social, political and economic urgencies in identifying what we call the 'new surveillance workplace'. The report assesses the range of technologies that are being introduced to monitor, track and, ultimately, watch workers, and looks at the immense changes they imbue in several arenas. How are institutions responding to the widespread uptake of new tracking technologies in workplaces, from the office, to the contact centre, to the factory? What are the parameters to protect the privacy and other rights of workers, given the unprecedented and ever-pervasive functions of monitoring technologies? The report evidences how and where new technologies are being implemented; looks at the impact that surveillance workspaces are having on the employment relationship and on workers themselves at the psychosocial level; and outlines the social, legal and institutional frameworks within which this is occurring, across the EU and beyond, ultimately arguing that more worker representation is necessary to protect the data rights of workers.

WORLD BANK

[The Human Capital Index 2020 Update : Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19](#)

This report presents an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI), using the most recent health and education data available as of 2020. It documents new evidence on trends over time in the HCI, examples of success, and new analytical work on utilization of human capital, as well as a primer on the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and its potential impact on human capital. COVID-19 is taking a tremendous toll on lives and economies. Disruptions in supply chains and the lockdowns that have

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been enacted to stave off contagion are putting hardship on families' incomes. Coupled with disruptions in basic health services and school closures, these repercussions of COVID shocks are likely to have a significant impact on the human capital accumulation process in the short and in the long run. HCI 2020 data have been collected before the onset of COVID-19 and can act as a baseline to track the effects of COVID-19 on health and education outcomes, as policymakers consider how best to protect human capital from the shock of the pandemic.

McKinsey&Company

[Mental health in the workplace: The coming revolution](#)

Employees are in need and are demanding better coverage. Here's how leading companies get mental health coverage right.

[How the European Union could achieve net-zero emissions at net-zero cost](#)

In December 2019, the European Commission introduced an ambitious proposal to make the bloc climate-neutral by 2050. To help inform the planning efforts of policy makers and business leaders, McKinsey has attempted to find a societally cost-optimal pathway to achieving the emissions targets. This report describes the least costly pathway among the many we identified. This cost-optimal pathway illustrates the technical feasibility of reducing the European Union's emissions 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and reaching net-zero by 2050. It also shows that decarbonizing Europe can have broad economic benefits, including GDP growth, cost-of-living reductions, and job creation.

[What's next for remote work: An analysis of 2,000 tasks, 800 jobs, and nine countries](#)

For many workers, COVID-19's impact has depended greatly on one question: Can I work from home or am I tethered to my workplace? Quarantines, lockdowns, and self-imposed isolation have pushed tens of millions around the world to work from home, accelerating a workplace experiment that had struggled to gain traction before COVID-19 hit. Now, well into the pandemic, the limitations and the benefits of remote work are clearer. Although many people are returning to the workplace as economies reopen—the majority could not work remotely at all—executives have indicated in surveys that hybrid models of remote work for some employees are here to stay.

CEPS

[Social Innovation in the Temporary Agency Work Industry](#)

This study presents a selection of 15 social innovation practices, from the temporary agency work sector and beyond, for skills enhancement and training, working conditions and social protection. Implemented across nine countries across Europe, this geographical coverage allows consideration and comparison of different socioeconomic and institutional contexts in which social innovation takes place. Moreover, one practice is implemented worldwide and several others have this potential.

[What role for forest-based industries in a climate-neutral future?](#)

Climate neutrality in the European Union and globally will lead to a deep transformation of existing industrial value chains, bringing new and lower-carbon products, processes and novel business models. This transformation will affect the entire industrial sector, notably including all energy-intensive industries, forest-based industries among them. The sector represents a full value chain, from forest owners and managers, to industries transforming the forest products and recycling. While the exact routes for this transformation remain uncertain, the technological pathways for decarbonisation are known: electrification, hydrogen, energy efficiency, circular economy, carbon-neutral liquids, carbon capture and negative emissions.

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For policymakers, the transition of forest-based industries raises the task of finding the right balance between the sector's contribution to sinks, product substitution (including recycling), renewable energy and biodiversity, in addition to carbon accounting issues, especially if international trade is included in the analysis. Possible trade-offs – food versus feed, fibre versus fuel, and land versus ecosystems – will most likely become more acute after 2030 as the deadline for climate neutrality approaches.

More knowledge will be required to make the most appropriate choices, such as which energy crops have the potential to deliver the highest negative emissions, which forest management practices are optimal from a biodiversity perspective, and what role forests will play more generally in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Low-carbon 'lead markets' can in theory support demand for climate-neutral products, including for wood-based products, but policy-driven demand is not equivalent to market-driven demand. Climate-neutral products are not necessarily of higher value to consumers, nor do they offer better functionality. Consumer preferences for bio-based products in, for example, the materials or textiles sectors will matter.

[Europe's Collaborative Economy](#)

This new report provides some answers to these questions. It completes the work of a year-long Task Force that heard from corporate, union, employer and city representatives, along with leading academics.

Without reform, Europe risks falling behind in this new area of economic activity. Platforms, both European and non-European, face a labyrinth of local, often contradictory, rules. Their legal status as either internet society platforms or as transport or accommodation providers remains unclear. Most taxi and accommodation regulations date from the pre-internet era.

Task Force sessions concurred that the present regulations must be modernised. There remained significant differences of opinion about the proper balance between local and European rules. But all members agreed that platforms should take on new responsibilities to combat illegal activities, which can mean sharing information and data on their users with cities – provided privacy rules are respected. They agreed that sectoral rules need to be updated to create a level playing field between hotels and short-term private rentals, and taxi and ride-hailing drivers. And while disagreements remained over the status of workers as independent contractors or employees, they agreed that workers should receive increased social protection.

ECIPE

[WORLD TRADE REPORT 2020: Government policies to promote innovation in the digital age](#)

The World Trade Report is an annual publication that aims to deepen understanding about trends in trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system. The 2020 World Trade Report looks at the role of innovation and technology policies in an increasingly digitalized world economy, and explains the role of the WTO in this changing context.

Bruegel

[Understanding the European Union's regional potential in low-carbon technologies](#)

This research identifies existing and potential specialisation in green technologies in European Union regions, and proposes an approach to identify policies that can help to realise this potential.

[Green certificates: a better version of green bonds](#)

"The current design of green bonds means they aren't fulfilling their potential. We propose an alternative: issuance of regular bonds with attached green certificates that ensure earmarking for

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green purposes. The new design would reduce financing costs and in turn would provide incentives to start a greater number of environmentally-friendly projects."

European Policy Centre (EPC)

[On the road to sustainable mobility: How to ensure a just transition?](#)

As the European Commission launches its long-awaited Strategy for sustainable and smart mobility, EU and national efforts to continue the transition to sustainable mobility will ensue. However, the green transition often overshadows and, at times, even comes at the expense of the most affected and vulnerable groups of society. The precarious, the elderly, people with disabilities and rural residents still face unfair conditions and access to mobility. Green alternatives are often scarce and far away, if they exist at all.

Sofía López Piqueres and Sara Viitanen highlight the lack of inclusiveness in and the omission of rural areas from European mobility systems and outline 11 recommendations which would ensure distributional justice, procedural justice and recognition justice.

The carrots and sticks that are used to incentivise people to adopt more sustainable mobility options must be carefully studied. Moreover, process matters. Achieving buy-in for the transition requires considering the varying needs of people and placing special focus on vulnerable groups with limited mobility options, who may end up carrying a disproportionate cost of the transition without seeing the immediate benefits. It is time to accelerate the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and society with mobility systems that are both environmentally friendly and socially just.

[Towards road transport fit for a green and digital future](#)

The EU must support the transition towards sustainable and digital road transport to reduce climate and environmental impacts and make the European economy more competitive.

The efficient movement of people and goods is central to the functioning of modern economies. However, there is a growing awareness that more must be done to address the environmental impacts of mobility systems. Transport accounted for 27% of the EU's GHG emissions, of which more than 70% originated from road transport and 44% from passenger cars in 2017. In urban areas, transport – especially private cars – is the biggest contributor to unacceptably poor air quality, resulting in hundreds of thousands of premature deaths yearly. While the current priority is rightfully to minimise the number of deaths from COVID-19, the significant environmental impacts related to road transport must not be left unattended. With the European Commission's new Strategy for sustainable and smart mobility on its way, the time is ripe for European road transport to take full advantage of the joint green and digital transitions.

Atlantic Council

[Trade policy priorities for a COVID-19 era and beyond](#)

Transatlantic trade policy stands at a crossroads as 2020 draws to a close. Challenged by populists across the political spectrum, disrupted by COVID-19, and potentially rendered irrelevant by the distributed digital economy, it is fair to question whether the multilateral trading framework crafted at the tail end of World War II is fit for the twenty-first century. If the global trading system is to survive the twin challenges presented by technology and COVID-19, it must evolve.

[Democratic offense against disinformation](#)

The United States and other democratic countries have made progress defending against foreign and domestic disinformation. Unevenly, but steadily, a structure for democratic defense against disinformation is emerging, consistent with the principles of transparency, accountability, and respect for freedom of expression.

Mercator Institute for China Studies

[European carmakers fuel Chinese innovation](#)

European carmakers are shifting their R&D operations to China, making them willing partners in China's efforts to become a manufacturing superpower and absorb the global automotive industry's value chain, explains Gregor Sebastian.

UK Institute for Government

[The world of government in 2021](#)

Coronavirus has upended established politics and economics – and toppled some politicians. Governments need to bridge the divisions the crisis has created within countries and within international alliances as they try to plot a route to recovery and seize the opportunities emerging from the upheaval. It has been a year that no one would have predicted – apart from epidemiologists who have long expected that a pandemic would grip the world at some point. Still, as reports of successes in vaccines begin to stack up, it is possible to see some of the themes that will shape the coming year in government.

[Technology and the future of the government workforce](#)

The government has no clear strategy for adapting to how new technology will radically transform the way it works and the workforce it will need. This report warns that few government organisations are prepared for the changes that increased automation of roles – through technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Video Recognition (VR) – will mean for their staff. The use and influence of new technologies will profoundly change almost every role in government. Some jobs will become redundant – with call centre workers, administrative staff, and junior roles particularly vulnerable to the effects of new technology. But the report finds that new technologies will, in most cases, mean jobs change rather than disappear. This will allow government employees to focus on more complex aspects of their work: from diagnosing to fixing problems, from administering to analysing data.

Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies

[Scenarios for the Future of Nuuk](#)

In collaboration with Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq in Nuuk, Greenland, we developed four scenarios for the future of the arctic capital with a special focus on how to ensure growth in a prosperous future. How will climate change affect the local economy and the fishing industry? How should Greenland govern its mineral-rich underground? What challenges and opportunities arise from the country's delicate geo-political location? These are some of the pressing questions facing Nuuk and Greenland today, which will deeply affect the future.

We are proud of our work with developing growth scenarios for Nuuk, which has already begun the process of turning our recommendations into action.

[Going Viral: Scenarios for a Post-pandemic World - How will COVID-19 change the investment landscape?](#)

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to shock societies and markets globally, it is more important than ever to take the long view and assess what the effects of the current upheaval will be 10, 15, or 20 years into the future. The history of pandemics shows that their economic, societal and geo-political consequences are long-lasting, often unfolding over years if not decades.

This report, prepared in collaboration with Pictet Asset Management, presents four scenarios for the post-pandemic world, focusing on how COVID-19 will impact the investment landscape.