

THE MEGATRENDS HUB

- assessing the implications of
megatrends on policy initiatives

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JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

"As the science and knowledge service of the Commission our mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle"



PLAN OF THE MORNING

9:00 Introductions

9:30 Foresight and megatrends

10:00 Mapping the megatrends

10:45 BREAK

11:00 Consequences and linkages

12:15 Debriefing from groups and discussion

COMMON FORESIGHT METHODS

- **Horizon scanning** – mapping new signals of change
- **Megatrends analysis** – THE story of the future and actions to take
- **Scenario planning** – 2 or more stories of plausible futures
- **Visioning and backcasting** – preferred future state to guide direction
- **Policy gaming** – interactions in hypothesised future situation
- **Design futures** – creative design of future possibilities/products



MEGATRENDS

LONG-TERM DRIVING FORCES

THAT ARE **OBSERVABLE** NOW AND

WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE

SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE **FUTURE**

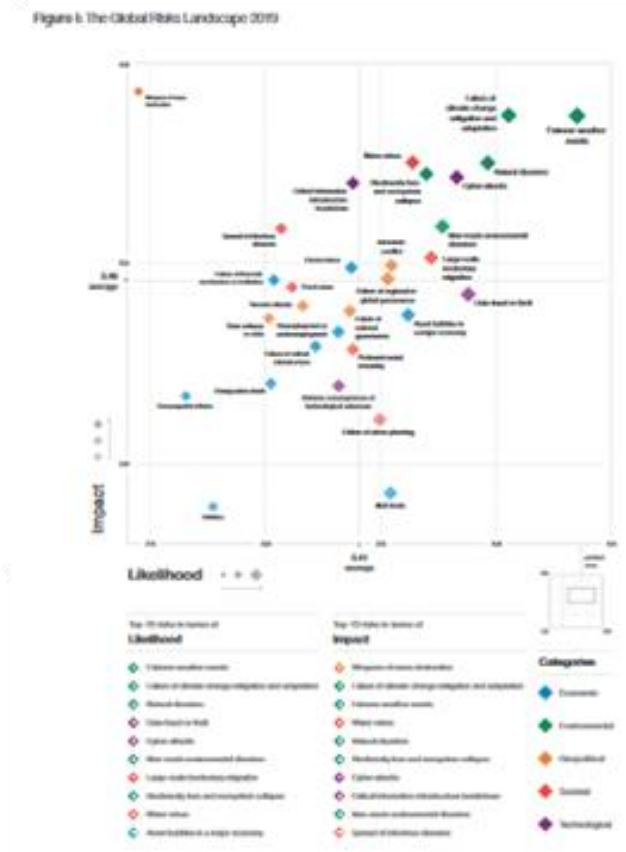
MEGATRENDS...



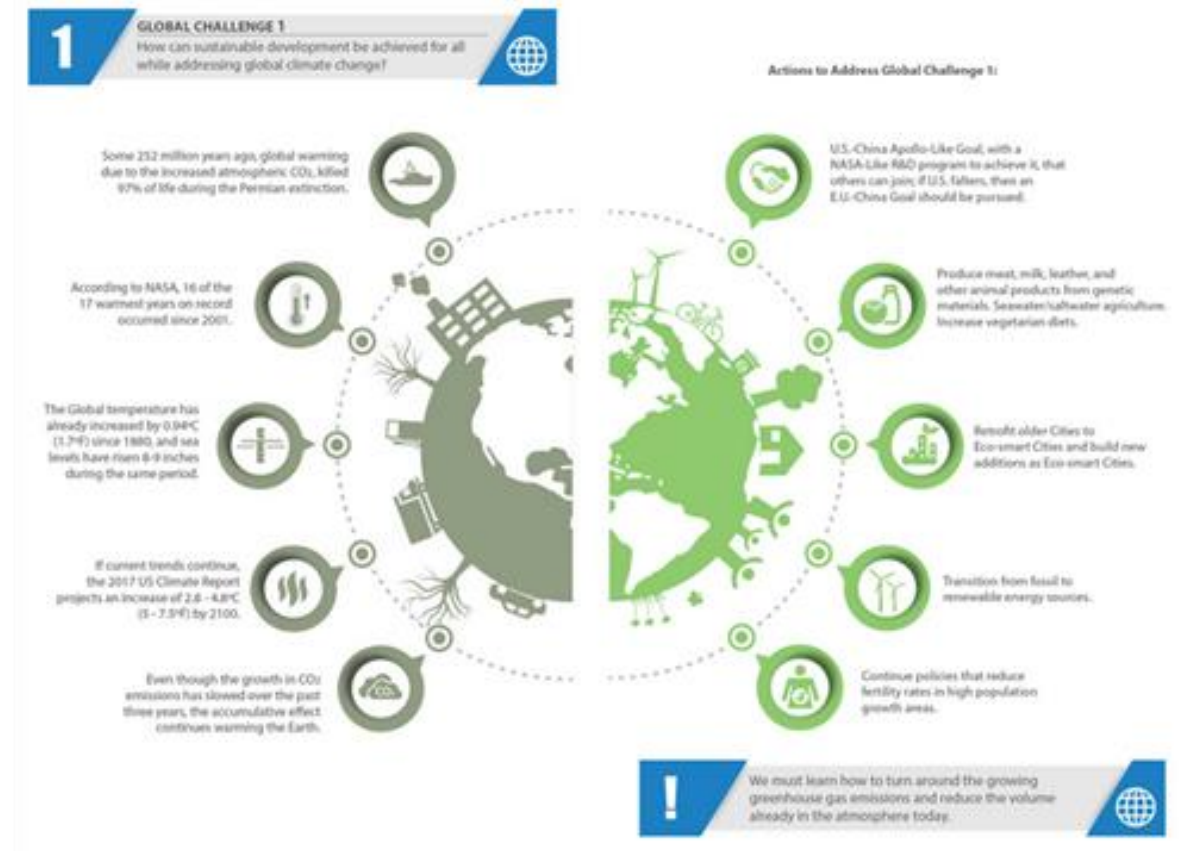
Age Structure Changes of Key Countries, 2015-35

Age Structure (median Age)	2015 PROJECTIONS	2035 PROJECTIONS
YOUTHFUL (25 or less)		
Yemen	44.8	38.9
Uganda	23.9	23.9
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	18.9	18.3
Algeria	17.5	16.2
Nigeria	17.9	14.7
Ethiopia	18.4	12.6
INTERMEDIATE (26 to 39)		
South Africa	27.7	28.9
India	26.4	30.3
Mexico	27.4	30.4
Venezuela	27.4	31.2
Indonesia	28.4	31.3
Iran	29.5	33.2
MATURE (40 to 45)		
China	37.0	40.6
Australia	37.5	40.6
New Zealand	38.0	41.2
US	38.0	41.2
France	38.7	41.2
Spain	38.7	41.2
UK	40.0	41.2
POST-MATURE (46 or more)		
Germany	46.2	46.2
Japan	46.5	46.2
Poland	46.2	46.2
South Korea	46.4	46.4
Germany	46.6	46.6
Spain	54.5	54.5

WEF Global Risk Report



MP Global Challenges



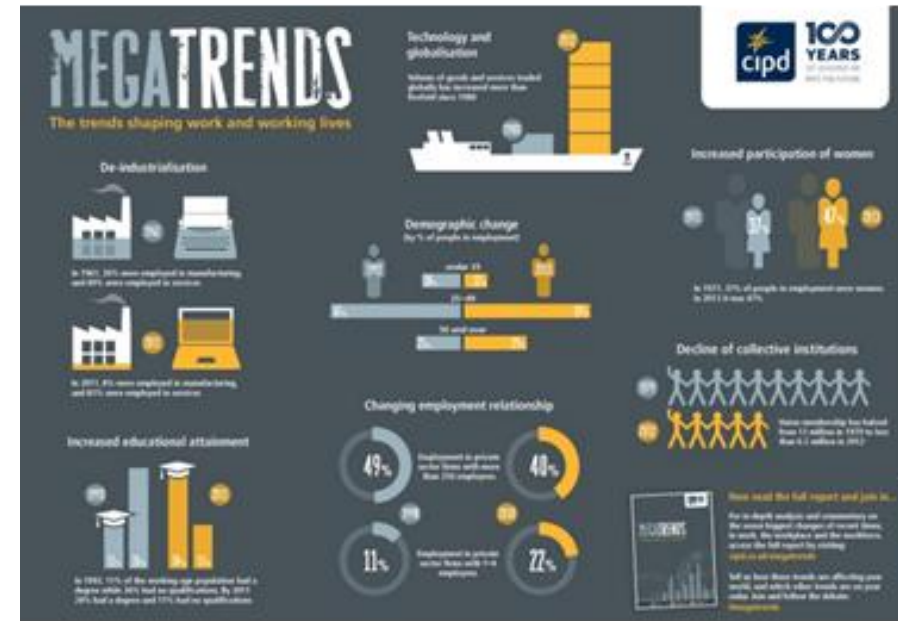
ESPAS

GLOBAL TRENDS TO 2030

CHALLENGES AND CHOICES FOR EUROPE

NIC GT 2030

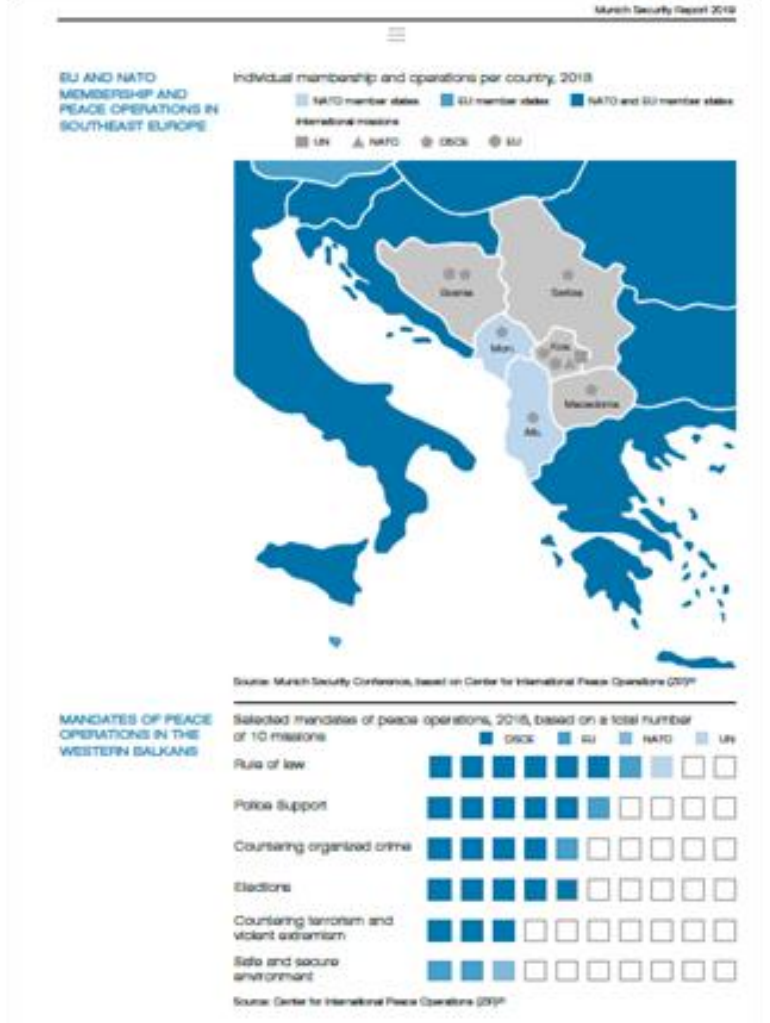
CIPD Megatrends



Megatrend-Map



MSC Munich Sec. Report



European Parliament



Global Trendometer 2019

Essays on medium- and long-term global trends

Zukunftsinstitut

Joint Research Centre

MEGATRENDS HUB

- Repository of foresight-related information
- Structured around 14 global megatrends
- <https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/en>

European Commission > Knowledge for policy > Foresight

Knowledge for policy

Competence Centre on Foresight – Megatrends Hub

Megatrends are long-term driving forces that are observable now and will most likely have significant influence on the future. This Hub is a dynamic collaborative repository of information and resources on the main megatrends shaping our world.

Search

All

Topics

Diversifying Inequalities Absolute number of people living in extreme poverty has been declining. The gaps between the wealthiest and poorest of the population are widening.	Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity Technologies are changing the nature and speed of new scientific discoveries and are transforming systems of production, management, and governance.	Climate change and environmental degradation Continued unabated, anthropogenic pollution and greenhouse gas emissions will further increase changing climate patterns.
Increasing demographic imbalances World population may reach 8.5 billion by 2030, with rapid growth in many developing economies, while shrinking in	Changing nature of work New generations entering the workforce and older generations working longer are changing employment, career models, and organisational structures.	Growing consumerism By 2030, the consumer class is expected to reach 5 billion people. This means 2 billion more people with increased purchasing power than today.

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MEGATRENDS ENGAGEMENT TOOL

01

Diversifying inequalities

02

Climate change and environmental degradation

03

Increasing significance of migration

04

Growing consumerism

05

Aggravating resource scarcity

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Increasing demographic imbalances

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Expanding influence of east and south

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Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity

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Diversifying education and learning

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Shifting health challenges

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Continuing urbanisation

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Increasing influence of new governing systems

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Changing security paradigm

About the
Megatrends Hub

THE MEGATRENDS

Increasing inequalities

*How will the existing inequalities (gender, income, digital etc.) affect your issue?
What are the new inequalities that could emerge in its context?*



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Climate change & environmental degradation

How will the increasing effects of climate change, pollution, pressures on the environment (and people's perception of it) affect your issue?



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Increasing significance of migration

How does the issue relate to future migration flows (in terms of who migrates? where do people want to go?) and livelihoods of migrant populations (also in terms of how are migrants perceived in their host societies)?



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Growing consumerism

How will the increasing global demand for products and services affect your issue? What new markets could it be associated with or create?



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Aggravating resource scarcity

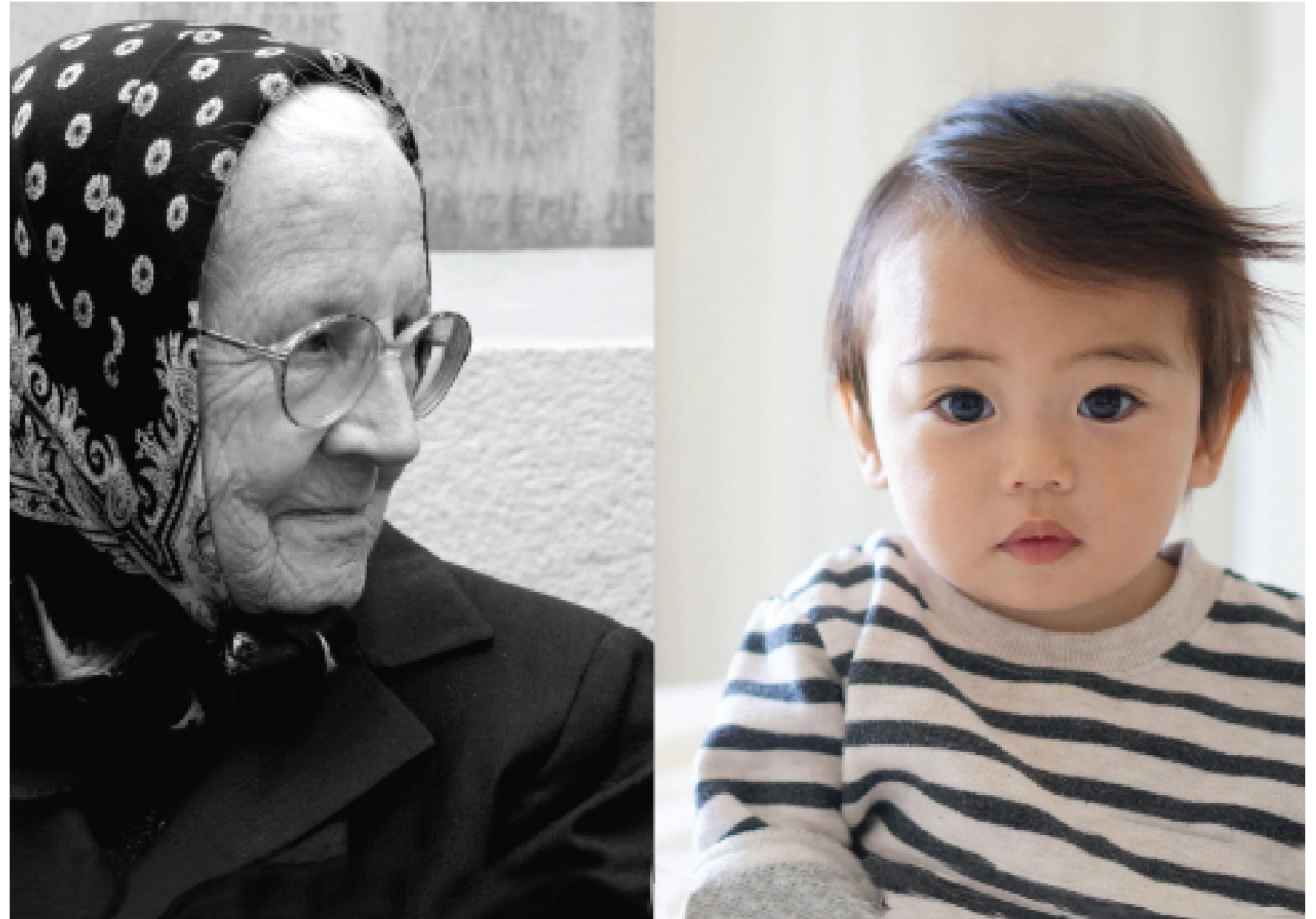
*How will increasing resource scarcity influence your issue?
What resources will it need in the future?*



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Increasing demographic imbalances

How will demographic trends like population growth and growing youth cohorts in some countries, or ageing populations in other countries affect the issue?



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Expanding influence of East and South

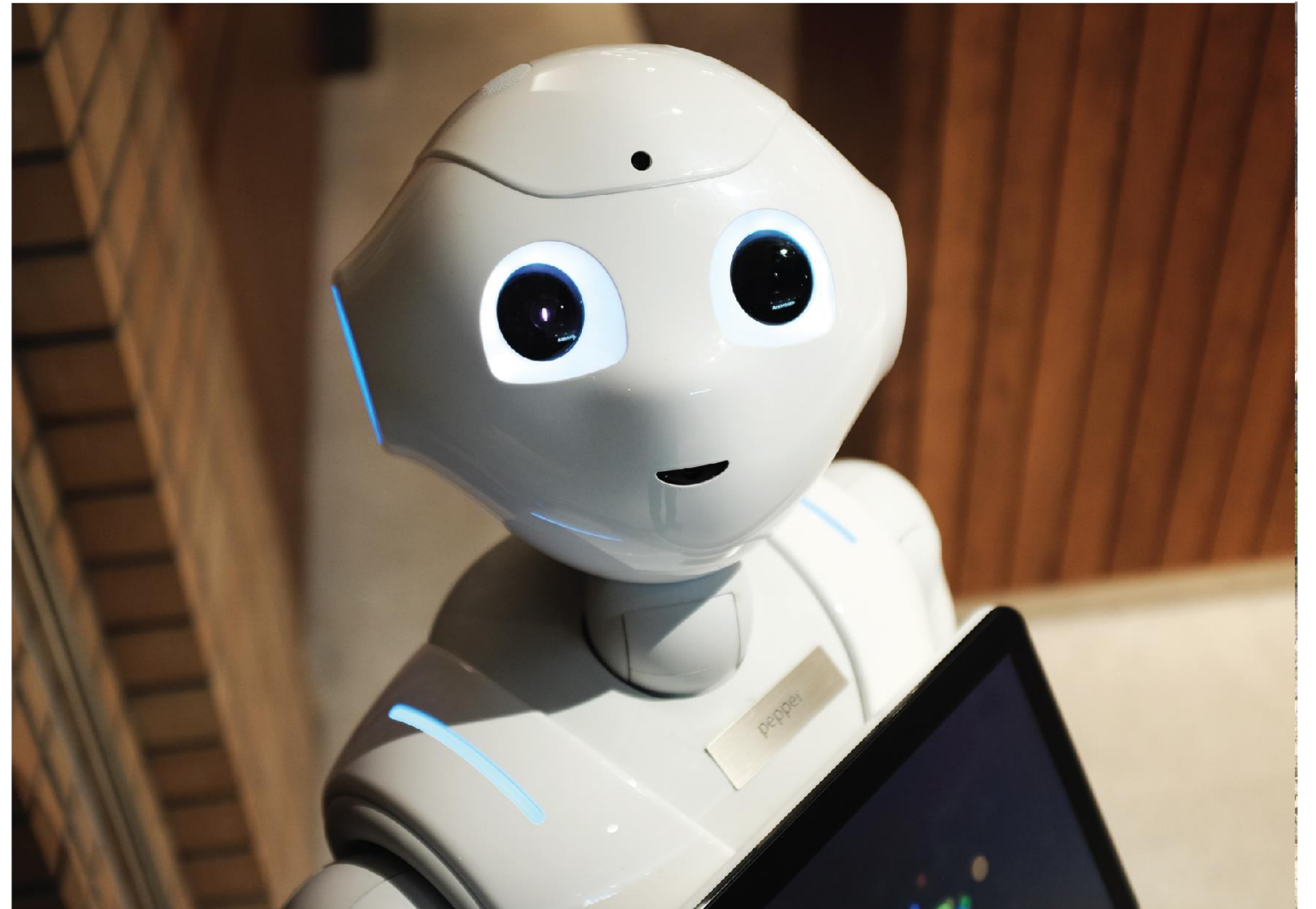
What role will growing Asia and Africa play in development of the issue? Will they understand and act on it similarly to Europe?



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Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity

How will the issue be shaped by technological development and the societal response to it?



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Changing nature of work

How is the rise in temporary, freelance, platform-mediated and remote work going to impact your issue? What new jobs and skills will be needed to address the issue?



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Diversifying education and learning

How will people learn and access knowledge about your issue in the future? What will they want to know and from whom?



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Shifting health challenges

How will the increasing importance of non-communicable diseases affect the issue? How will it interact with changing health systems and the pharmaceutical sector?



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Continuing urbanisation

What role will cities play in the issue, as spaces where change and experimentation happens, as policy makers? How will urban population growth affect your issue?



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Increasing influence of new governing systems

Will the issue be affected by the creation of new collective actors who are influencing existing governance structures (networks, communities, social movements)?



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Changing security paradigm

What will the future security aspects of your issue be? Can it be weaponised or contribute to a military strategy? Can it be part of future conflicts or source of new tensions?



LET'S START!

1. Make a tour de table. When you introduce yourself, also suggest an issue/policy that you could explore today
2. In the group: Choose an issue/policy that you want to discuss

- 
3. Take 3-4 random Megatrends cards and the corresponding Megatrends icons
 4. Think individually on where to place the Megatrend icons on the prioritisation poster. **DO NOT PLACE THE CARDS YET!!!**
 - *How relevant or important is this Megatrend for your issue?*
 - *To what extent is your target group aware of the influence of this megatrend? Is the impact of this Megatrend recognized and understood?*
 5. Share in your group and discuss positioning



6. Identify which Megatrend cards were placed:

- high on the horizontal RELEVANCE axis

AND

- low or medium on the vertical AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE axis.

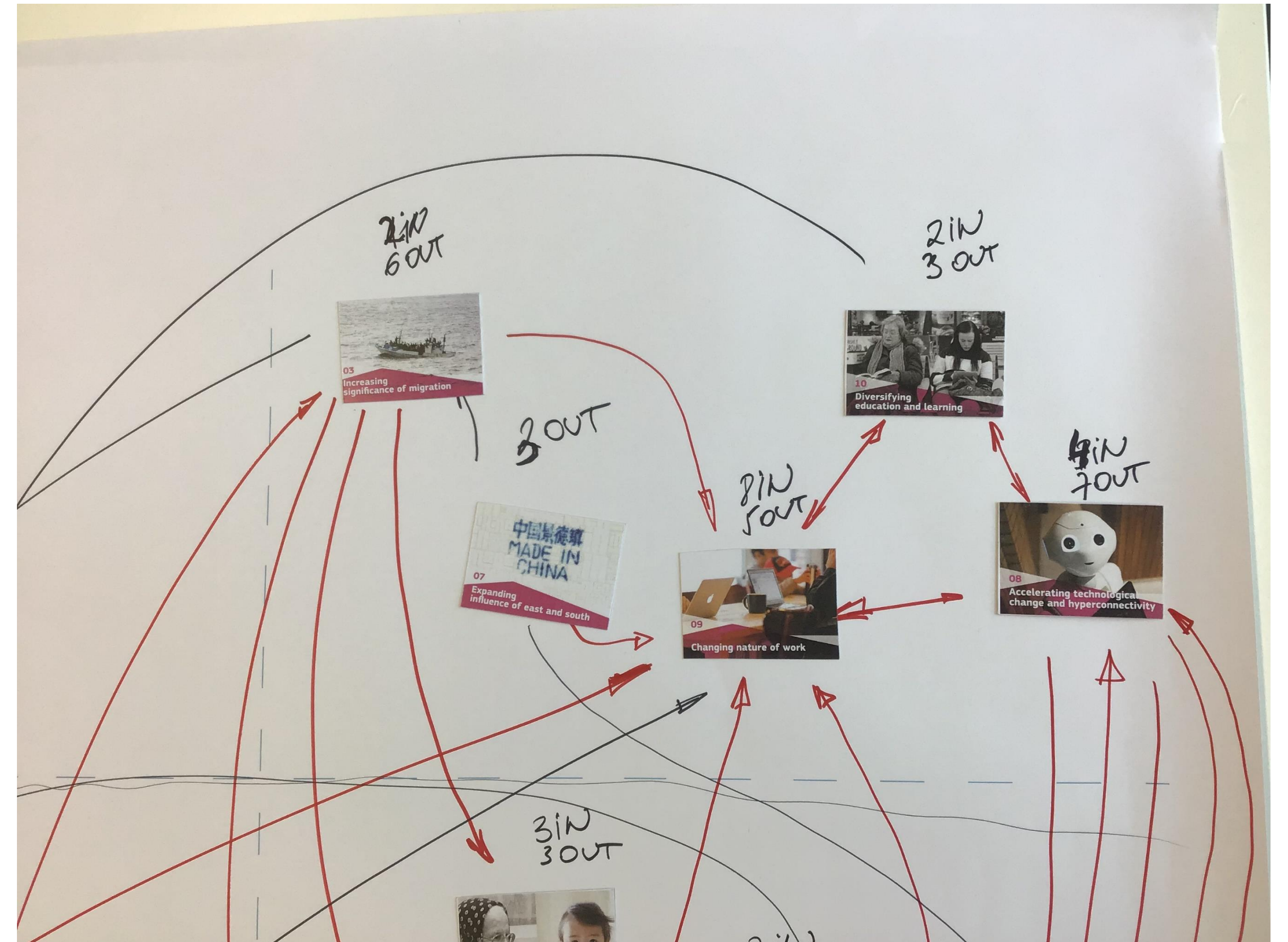
7. Take those Megatrends and discuss:

- *What consequences may this megatrend have on your issue in the short and long term?*

Write it down on the Consequences card.

8. Identify linkages between the megatrends in the context of your issue

- *Count how many linkages go in and out of each megatrends*





9. Turn less relevant megatrends into Wild Cards.

- *What would it take for this trend to become highly impactful?*
- *Or for it to cause major disruption?*

10. Fill in the Reporting template.

ACCESS THE MEGATRENDS ENGAGEMENT TOOL

Download at:

https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/working-megatrends_en

Email us on JRC-Megatrends@ec.europa.eu

THANK YOU!