Swiss Corona Citizen Science Team
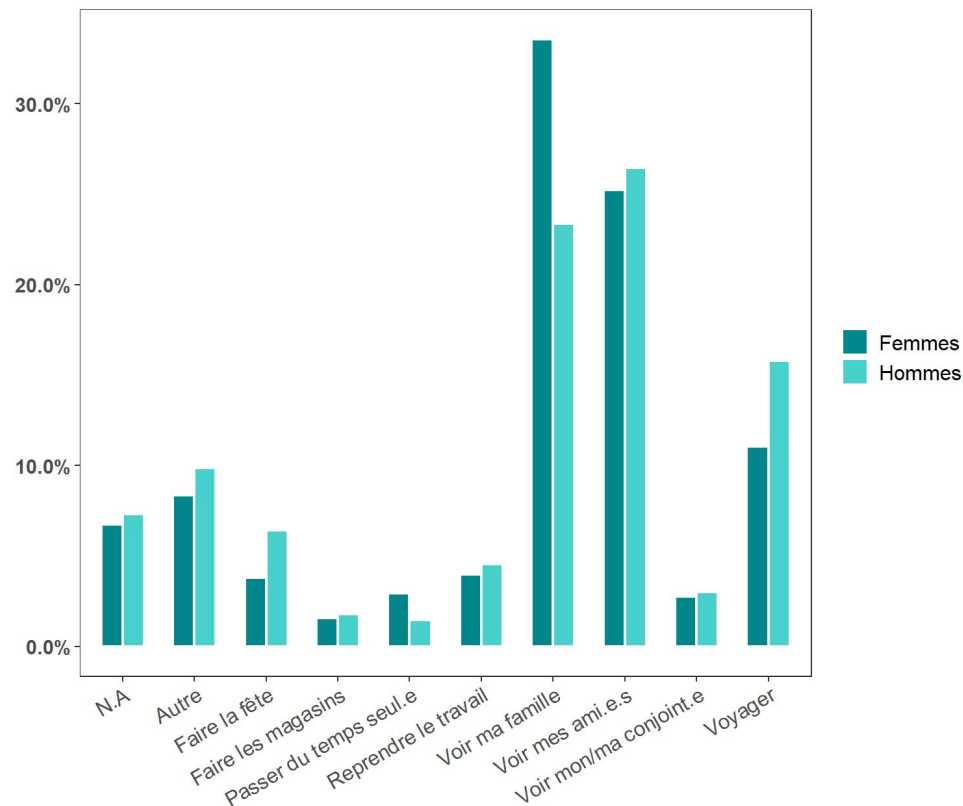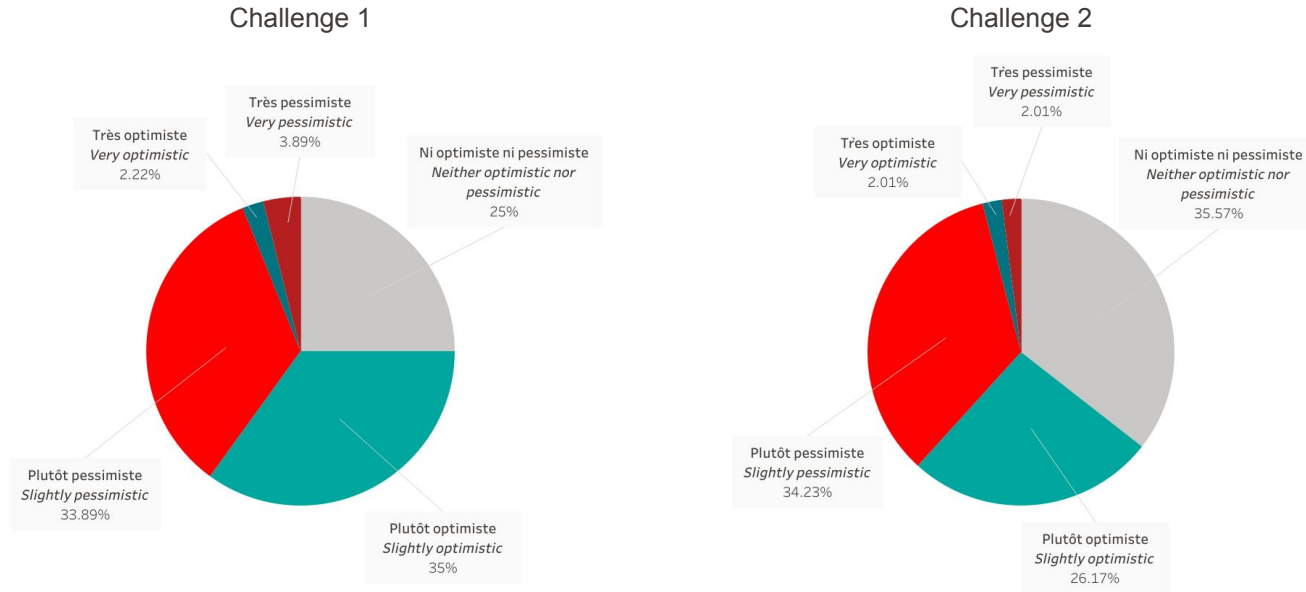
Regard sur le futur / Perspectives

Not spending time alone but **seeing family and friends is, for almost 30% of people, the first thing they will do** when measures are lifted. Women are more likely to say they want to see their family as first priority. Slightly more men want to start travelling again. Shopping is not a priority for anyone.

A POST-CORONA FUTURE

Challenge 1

Très optimiste
Very optimistic
2.22%

Très pessimiste
Very pessimistic
3.89%

Ni optimiste ni pessimiste
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
25%

Plutôt pessimiste
Slightly pessimistic
33.89%

Plutôt optimiste
Slightly optimistic
35%

Challenge 2

Très pessimiste
Very pessimistic
2.01%

Très optimiste
Very optimistic
2.01%

Ni optimiste ni pessimiste
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
35.57%

Plutôt pessimiste
Slightly pessimistic
34.23%

Plutôt optimiste
*Slightly optimistic*
26.17%

Considering participants' overall feelings in relation to the future post COVID-19, the majority of responses in Challenge #1 were almost evenly split between **slight optimism (35%) and slight pessimism (34%)**, while a quarter of all participants were ambivalent. As the COVID-19 crisis progressed, fewer participants retained their initial optimism, as evidenced by the decrease from 35% in phase 1 to 26% in Challenge #2. Feelings of uncertainty and ambivalence (i.e. *neither optimistic nor pessimistic*) saw an increase by around 10% from Challenge #1 to #2, while the proportion of participants feeling slight pessimism remained fairly constant.

Participants preferred **futures that strongly feature notions of environmental protection, sustainability and solidarity.** Many envisaged living in greater harmony with nature and moving away from lifestyles based on overconsumption. Others emphasised the need for societies as a whole to **show more support and solidarity towards one another**, rather than focus solely on individual interests and desires. Lastly, many participants would also appreciate a **general deceleration in the pace of our day-to-day lives and activities**.
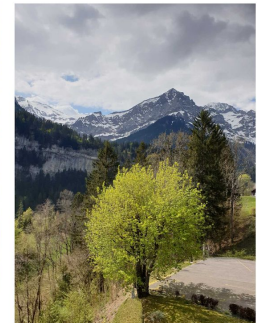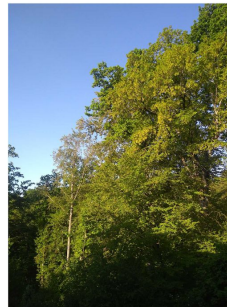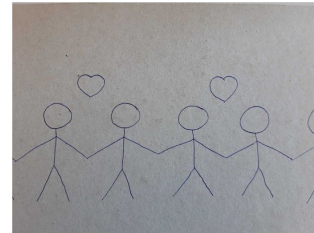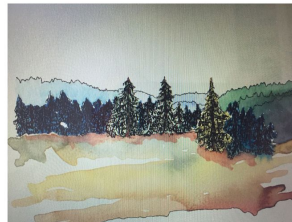
Crowdsourcing participants were asked to pen, in a few sentences, key aspects of the COVID-19 crisis which they thought would be remembered and retold in the dictionaries of the future. The **synthesised *dictionary entry*** presented below consolidates the input received and highlights recurrent topics and themes from participants.

" A single event which brought the entire world to an abrupt halt, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 serves as a reminder of the large extent to which human society is at the mercy of its natural environment. While the global population retreated into isolation, nature was given a break and flourished. The lockdowns, confinement, and social distancing measures greatly changed priorities and the way of life for many, at least temporarily. To adapt to the new and rapidly-changing situation, societies and economies saw fundamental shifts in how they functioned. The very reward of globalisation—seamless connectivity and extensive trading networks—became a double-edged sword, as it facilitated the spread of the new coronavirus and intensified its impact. The fragility of an increasingly individualistic society and capitalist system became more apparent than ever, as governments around the world struggled to find solutions for this social and economic crisis. When difficult choices had to be made, some were undoubtedly put in a very hard place. Yet, the general outpouring of support and widespread show of solidarity—no matter how fleeting—in these difficult times never failed to warm the cockles of our hearts."

POST-CORONA FUTURE SCENARIOS

The desirability of a set of post-corona future scenarios was evaluated by participants and is illustrated in this figure. At the positive end of the spectrum, **increased environmental protection** was deemed very desirable by the largest number of participants, with **increased solidarity among people and a less globalised economy** following close behind. The sentiments concerning these three scenarios remained consistent across the two Challenges. At the other end of the spectrum, more restrictions on nation-state borders and increased security to digital control were seen as the very undesirable future scenarios. While this aversion toward digital control saw a very slight decrease from phase 1 to phase 2, a greater proportion of **participants felt that more restrictions across nation-state borders was very undesirable**, a likely reflection of the strong preference for the freedom of movement between Switzerland and its neighbouring countries.
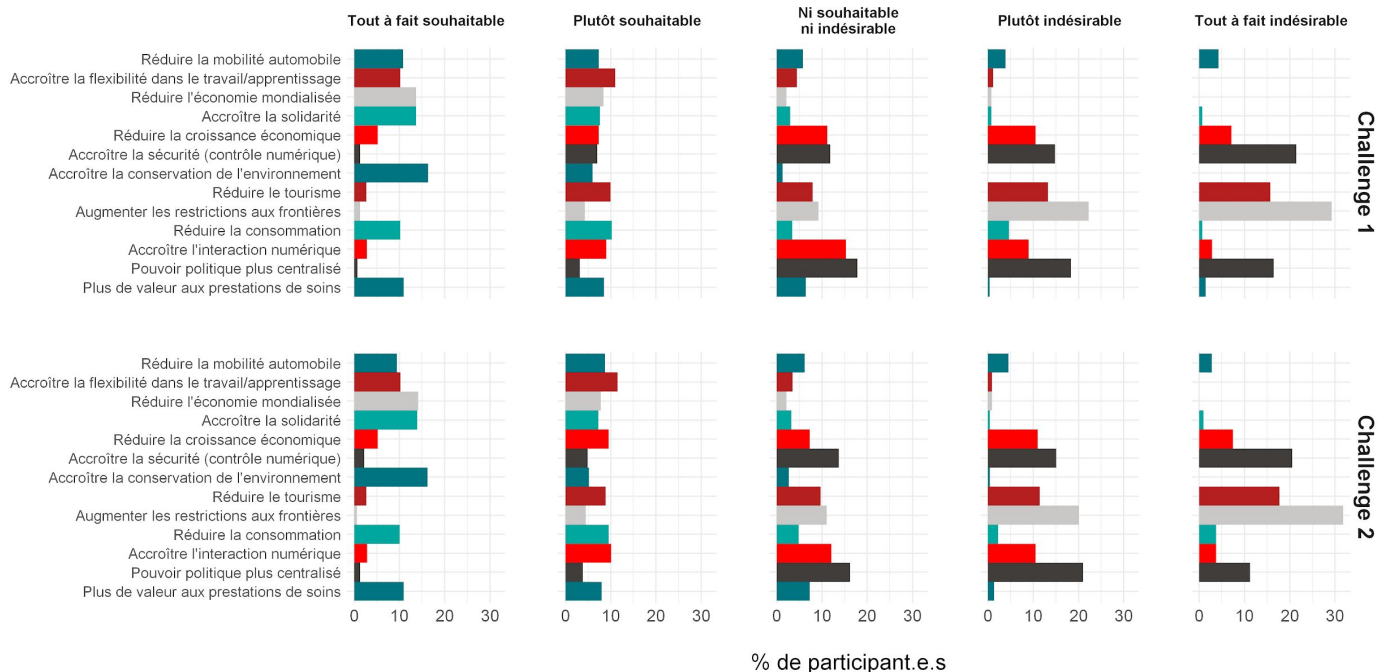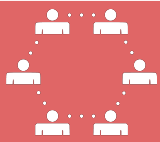
CITIZEN THINK TANK 1: HOUSING

This first Think Tank looked at how (semi-)confinement has tested our relationship with housing. During the Covid-19 crisis, housing could be described as **"the first line of defense against coronavirus"** (see article here) or even referred to as **"a question of life and death"** (see article here). Our homes have become a lifeline, both by welcoming our life in the city and alternating their role as a place for living, working, studying and playing. But housing could also turn into a place of confinement and restriction. **The pandemic has therefore been a powerful reminder of residential inequalities in society.** It has highlighted disparities in material terms (size of home, access to outdoor spaces, levels of equipment and comfort), and reminded us of the power dynamics that play out in the home (domestic violence, distribution of household chores, care for children and vulnerable people, etc.). In addition, **confinement has very clearly highlighted the link between our vulnerability in the face of the virus and our unsustainable lifestyles.** We therefore came to wonder **what the housing of tomorrow might look like.**

After an initial meeting during which participants exchanged views on their personal relationship with housing and its various functions, the second session was a discussion on four scenarios proposed by Valentin Bourdin, architect and doctoral student at EPFL. These included four forms of interaction between housing and the city along two axes: urban density, and the pooling of routines and resources offered by urban areas.

Over the course of the discussions, the scenario of returning to the land (n°1) appeared to be desirable but difficult to implement, given the levels of residential density already reached in the country. How can we guarantee enough land for everyone? In the end, the 4th scenario, proposing to reinvest in the neighbourhood, was decided on as the most promising. This scenario was most attractive due to the attention it paid to local social relationships at neighbourhood level. Spaces that can promote sharing and local solidarity were then discussed. House sharing, mixed spaces for living and working, "communes" ... Various options were mentioned. But beyond architecture, participants mentioned that collective living is the result of negotiations and mutual learning. The emphasis is therefore on which methods of communication and sharing are most likely to encourage reinvestment in neighbourhoods.

→ Explore the full Citizen Think Tank report and different scenarios for the future of housing in the related PDF

The four house-city relations scenarios

Scenario 3: Rediscovering the city

Scenario 4: (Re-)investing in the neighbourhood

Scenario 1: Returning to the land

Scenario 2: Technological leap

Illustration: V. Bourdon
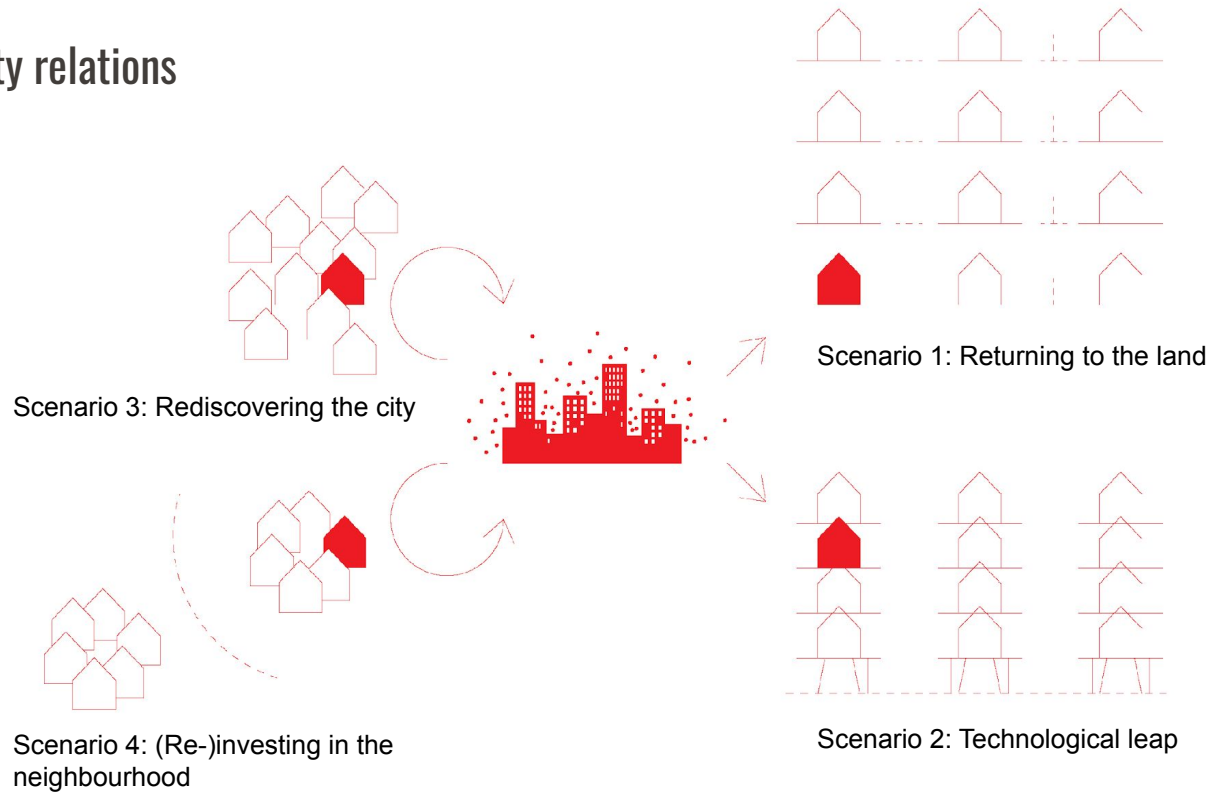
CITIZEN THINK TANK 2: MOBILITY

The Covid-19 crisis has had a wide variety of consequences from one individual to the next. However, one consequence was recognised by everyone: the **considerable drop in traffic on our roads**. This phenomenon, which is called traffic evaporation and is usually noticed during road works, street pedestrianisation or other reductions in road capacity, was clear during the period of (semi-)confinement. Generally, this was linked to five types of changes: 1) redirecting to other roads freed from their usual congestion, 2) a modal shift to individual modes of transport better suited to shorter trips, 3) time-based shifts to making trips during less crowded times, 4) changing a destination to limit distances travelled, or 5) not travelling if the trip was no longer possible or necessary (whether related to work, leisure, etc.).

In this Think Tank, entitled: "'The road as life': rethinking mobility for a post-COVID-19 world", we considered **how the disruption of our routines linked to Covid-19 could contribute to more sustainable mobility**.

The first session enabled expert citizens to share their experiences of mobility, discuss constraints that arose during the crisis, and reflect on the individual behaviours that led to traffic evaporation. Each participant was able to explain their spatio-temporal frame of reference: what does short/medium/long distance and short/medium/long term mean? It appeared that this frame of reference, often defined in slices of travel time from an anchor point, has largely changed in view of the crisis. The perception of borders (municipal, cantonal, regional or even national) has also changed.

The second phase of the citizen think tank focused on assessing three possible scenarios. Of these, the second, in which post-crisis society continues with trends that started before the crisis, emerged as the most "likely". On the other hand, despite restrictions and infringements on freedom of movement implied by the third scenario, this was the one that emerged as the most "desirable". It is also the scenario which participants said they were aiming for in their post-crisis mobility practices.
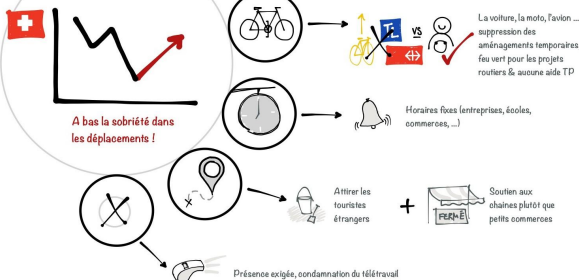
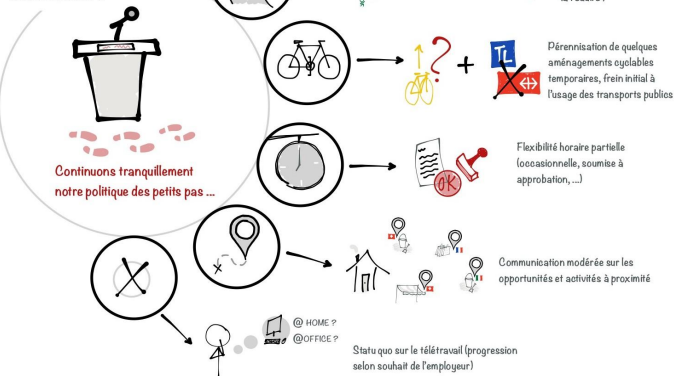**→ Explore the full Citizen Think Tank report and different scenarios for the future of mobility in the related PDF**

Scénario 3
Nous sommes tous responsables, mettons le paquet

Intervention volontariste des autorités pour canaliser le trafic de manière réfléchie

Pérennisation, développement & aides financières à l'utilisation des modes alternatifs à la voiture (exonération des impôts, subventions vélos non-électriques,...)

Flexibilité horaire encouragée & soutenue par les autorités

C'est parti !

Communication et éducation pour valoriser les activités de/à proximité (loisirs, vacances, vie locale, lien avec le report modal,...)

Favoriser le télétravail dès que possible (intervention des autorités)

Scénario 1
Tous azimuts sur l'avant-crise et la croissance économique

Consommer vite, souvent & loin (promotion par les autorités)

La voiture, la moto, l'avion ... suppression des aménagements temporaires, feu vert pour les projets routiers & aucune aide TP

Horaires fixes (entreprises, écoles, commerces, ...)

A bas la sobriété dans les déplacements !

Attirer les touristes étrangers + Soutien aux chaînes plutôt que petits commerces

Présence exigée, condamnation du télétravail

Scénario 2
Où en étions-nous déjà, avant la crise ?

Articulation urbanisme & multimodalité en centre ville (améliorer la mobilité sans la réduire)

Pérennisation de quelques aménagements cyclables temporaires, frein initial à l'usage des transports publics

Continuons tranquillement notre politique des petits pas ...

Flexibilité horaire partielle (occasionnelle, soumise à approbation, ...)

Communication modérée sur les opportunités et activités à proximité

@ HOME ?
@OFFICE ?

Statu quo sur le télétravail (progression selon souhait de l'employeur)

Although discussions around the local economy are not new, they were recently revived by the coronavirus crisis. On the one hand, this unprecedented situation has highlighted that we may come to **depend on goods and services provided by local stakeholders**, and on the other it has encouraged local authorities to put in place various means to **support the local economy that was paralysed during the pandemic**.

The concept of the local economy is often presented as the antithesis of globalisation. It refers to an economic system in which the production of goods and services takes place close to the places where they are consumed, and where the ownership of companies and capital stays local. In this context, this was the question that motivated this Think Tank: **What determines the radius of daily economic life, and how might this evolve in a post-pandemic future?**
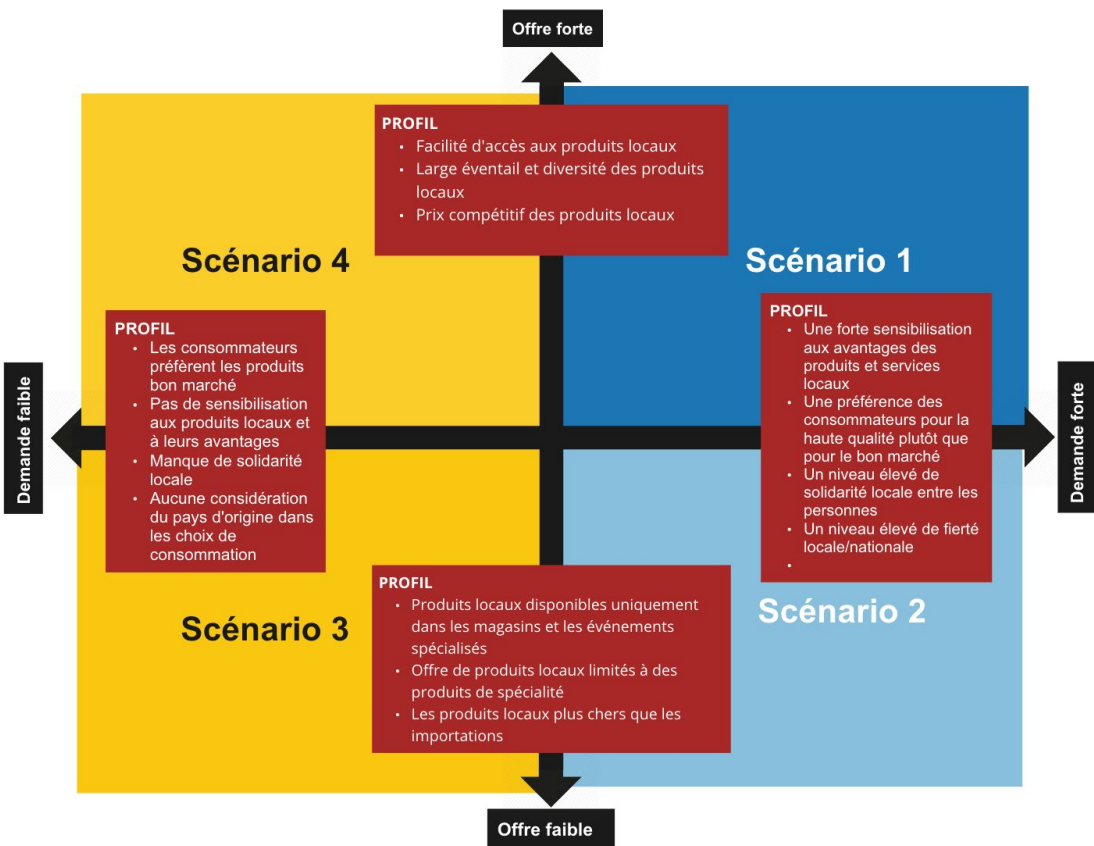
Discussions in the first session, during which participants were invited to share their thoughts on the local economy and its future, served to construct possible future scenarios of the local economy in Switzerland. Four scenarios in particular were considered, each characterised by a level (high or low) of supply and demand for local products (see graph attached). The second session served to deepen the discussion around the possible scenarios, particularly with regard to the advantages and disadvantages of each scenario, the changes that may lead us more towards one scenario or another over the next ten years, and the probability and desirability of the different scenarios.

In summary, as hoped, the Think Tank allowed citizens and researchers to engage in a discussion on the future of Switzerland's local economy, with very varied perspectives being shared.

→ Explore the full Citizen Think Tank report and different scenarios for the future of local economy in the related PDF

Offre forte

PROFIL
- Facilité d'accès aux produits locaux
- Large éventail et diversité des produits locaux
- Prix compétitif des produits locaux

Scénario 4

Scénario 1

PROFIL
- Les consommateurs préfèrent les produits bon marché
- Pas de sensibilisation aux produits locaux et à leurs avantages
- Manque de solidarité locale
- Aucune considération du pays d'origine dans les choix de consommation

PROFIL
- Une forte sensibilisation aux avantages des produits et services locaux
- Une préférence des consommateurs pour la haute qualité plutôt que pour le bon marché
- Un niveau élevé de solidarité locale entre les personnes
- Un niveau élevé de fierté locale/nationale
-

Demande faible

Demande forte

PROFIL
- Produits locaux disponibles uniquement dans les magasins et les événements spécialisés
- Offre de produits locaux limités à des produits de spécialité
- Les produits locaux plus chers que les importations

Scénario 3

Scénario 2

Offre faible

Four future scenarios for local economies

Scenario 1 - "Swiss pride in a slice of pie"

Scenario 2 - "In search of lost local products"

Scenario 3 - "The whole world on my plate"

Scenario 4 - "Ambitious commitments, but little solidarity".

Source: Almeida, Halla, 2020

This Citizen Think Tank proposed exploring and specifically discussing the issues, ideas and fears raised by the issue of surveillance in the context of a health crisis, using different scenarios. During the Covid-19 epidemic, **various digital tools were considered to comply with health instructions and stem the spread of the virus**: in particular, implementing contact tracing applications, as well as the use of mobile phone data. Among the various topics discussed daily in the "Citizen Science" application, one of the questions asked was: **"Is it desirable to have more security through digital control?”**.

In the crowdsourcing, faced with very divided responses to the question regarding digital governance, it seemed essential to have a citizen think tank. These reflections are also part of the more general context of digital scandals, such as that of Cambridge Analytica which influenced the election of Trump and the Brexit vote, as well as less recent scandals such as the secret files scandal in Switzerland in the 1980s. It seemed necessary to discuss the challenges brought about by the use of personal and digital data in managing the crisis. In this think tank, we asked **what might be the possible future of contact tracing devices created in the context of the health crisis**, and proposed 3 scenarios.

→ Explore the full Citizen Think Tank report and different scenarios for the future of local economy in the related PDF

Scenario 1, "From civil society to civil society", appears most desirable to the majority of participants. This scenario is based on individual and civic responsibility: we rely on individual responsibility to avoid endangering others. This scenario relies on the human factor more than technological solutionism. Nonetheless, it is not universally accepted, in large part because it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will fulfil their responsibilities. An ideal scenario inasmuch as the large majority feel empowered, it nevertheless seems unlikely. Participants fear that this practice will ultimately not be effective enough in managing the health crisis.

To participants, **scenario 2**, "From contact tracing to social scoring", is a continuation of what is already being developed, so this appears to be the most likely. However, while perceived as desirable for some, a counter argument was also presented, and it was pointed out that this scenario carries risks which are too high for others to pay.

While evaluating the scenarios, participants highlighted the need for a strict legal framework for the deployment of digital contact tracing devices. The citizens in the Citizen Think Tank demanded measures which guarantee that the use of solutions put in place in times of crisis are short-term. Participants believe that, while we can afford to go a little further in times of crisis to become more efficient, this should not turn into a downward spiral. Thus, we must be able to ask for guarantees before such devices are placed on the market, and demand that devices be dismantled and data deleted after the crisis. These regulations should be based on the expertise of independent entities. In addition, the use of contact tracing applications should be based on a voluntary individual approach, which goes hand in hand with individual empowerment and education of the risks that such devices can carry.

Scénario 1 :
De la société civile
à la société civile

Scénario 2:
Du *contact tracing*
au *social scoring*

Scénario 3 :
Un nouveau
pouls

CITIZEN THINK TANK 5: SWISS TRAVEL & TOURISM

"**Stay home today, travel tomorrow: Scenarios for Swiss Travel & Tourism in post COVID-19 lockdown"**: In early spring 2020 and along with **drastic fall in global travel and tourism rate** due to COVID-19 pandemic, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) published a clear statement: "Stay home today. Travel tomorrow" (UNWTO 2020, for details and sources see report of the CTT). According to the statement, the tourism sector is committed to support all international actions to curb the virus outbreak such as travel restrictions and suspension of flights. Consequently, **these measures have hit the tourism sector hard financially**: the global tourism arrival rate had reduced by 43.8% by April 2020, the highest decline compared to previous crises such as the global economic crisis in 2009 (-4%) and SARS outbreak in 2003 (-0.4%). Based on UNWTO scenarios, the annual decline in international tourism arrivals may reach 60% and 80% depending travel restrictions and global reactions to the pandemic. These scenarios warn that millions of people will be at risk financially and, more importantly, that the progressive trend of achieving sustainable development goals may be blocked.

This very unique situation was tackled among the Citizen Think Tank, and possible short-term directions to adopt were developed. The discussion was centred on the question: **"How might COVID-19 impact the future of travel and tourism in Switzerland?"**

In the first session, the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on people's everyday life regarding travel was explored, and possible future pathways in responding to the crisis were outlined. Based on the Think Tank's outputs, four scenarios for different ways of tackling the situation this summer 2020 were developed: a moment in time that we are already living.

Have a look how the situation was projected to be two months ago, and compare the Citizen Think Tank's outcomes with what you observe today

Scenarios for Swiss Travel & Tourism in post COVID-19 lockdown

Scenario 1: Travel today!

Scenario 2: A plan for "a slow discovery in Switzerland"!

Scenario 3: Back to pre-COVID19 life ...

Scenario 4: I'd rather to drive to France!