

Probabilities and judgement

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Scenario planning does not assign probabilities to scenarios, since its purpose is preparation for several futures. Readers will nonetheless form their own judgements. The author's judgement, offered with all due caution, is that the most likely outcome for 2035 is a combination of the adaptive hub and the fortress. The world economy will remain more fragmented than it was before 2020, with recurring sanctions, tariffs and conflicts. Swiss voters are likely to continue supporting an open economic model in key votes, as they have done in most votes on the relationship with the European Union and on immigration since 2000, with the notable exception of 2014.

The retreat and the squeeze are less likely, yet they remain real possibilities. Popular initiatives on immigration have come close to acceptance, one of them succeeding in 2014. While the relationship with the European Union remains contested, the housing crisis in the canton could turn local opinion against further growth. The canton's authorities and companies should therefore prepare for the less favourable scenarios while working towards the more favourable ones. A canton that assumes the adaptive hub and neglects the risks of the retreat could find itself unprepared when the political climate changes.

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