What will the world look like post crisis?

A framework for developing resilient strategies by Eidos Partners
This scenario space identifies 5 key issues (grey boxes) & alternative ways in which these key issues may develop between now and 2025 (yellow boxes)
From the space, 4 consistent, different and challenging scenarios were created. Taken together they represent the edge points of what could happen
Only the main headlines of the scenarios are given in this document, and we would normally develop sector specific scenarios as well. Still, the scenarios can help you to think which options you have (left above) and if they are robust (score highly) in all four futures (see top)…
Scenario 1

Creative Bounce

Global scenarios 2025

- **Length & depth of the health crisis**
  - Crisis subsides quickly
  - Back to normal in some places, but not in others
  - Crisis drags on, but lock downs are lifted
  - Long crisis with repeated lock downs

- **Economic & financial recovery**
  - Bounce back
  - Double deep dip
  - Valley of death
  - Slippery slope down

- **Structural change in business & industry**
  - Structures follow pre-corona trends
  - Lasting shifts in demand trends
  - Big changes to create resilient value chains
  - Same structure but only the big players survive

- **(Geo) Politics**
  - Old order struggles on
  - New blocks: science vs populism
  - Innovated world order
  - China leads a new world order, ROW apart
  - Closer to nature, but socially distant

- **Social/ ecological behaviour**
  - Gaps are growing more obvious
  - Together we proved that we can change
  - Way of the dragon
The crisis ebbs as countries open step by step for business and the dangers posed by a “second wave” are substantially reduced by a series of innovations and breakthroughs.
Demand recovers rapidly once restrictions are gone and the financial order remains in-tact.
There are lasting shifts in the structure of demand. Bricks and mortar/brown suffers, whereas virtual/green gains
Populism is down, and to keep global trade going despite the vast subsidies given to companies, states have to coordinate in ways they never did before.
The shut down demonstrated that it is possible to change behaviour without everything collapsing. Thus citizens drive changes to make the world more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable.
So now take a look at your existing strategic plans:
Are they still robust if “Creative Bounce” comes to pass?
The Long crawl to China

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Scenario 2
The virus strikes again and again. As the emphasis remains on saving lives, this leads to repeated lock-downs.
The dip is L-shaped. The traditional financial markets are trashed, so new forms of finance and financial markets emerge as serious forces.
The big shift is on the supply side. Global production chains with just in time production are out. Companies, driven by governments, make sure they can produce everything locally.
China profits from the crisis, and many follow its path. The Rest Of the World is divided, as NATO, the EU and the old world order are train wrecks.
The social fracture is the main concern and there is a drive for greater cohesion in society. Ecology takes a back seat: getting food on the table today is more important than preserving the planet for tomorrow.
So now take a look at your existing strategic plans:
Are they still robust if “The Long crawl to China” comes to pass?
## Too fragile to move

### Global scenarios 2025

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The virus strikes back in waves, but governments cannot muster the support of their populations for renewed lock downs. Even if they do not admit it, governments accept there will be a higher mortality rate in exchange for keeping the economy going.
This is a U-shaped dip. Financial markets are anemic, and central banks try to use Modern Monetary Theory to stimulate growth.
Although the level of demand is down, the structure does not change so much compared to pre-crisis times. The trends that were present before COVID19 continue at the same pace as before the crisis.
The old world order struggles on as everybody fears collapse, and democracies slowly are being hollowed from inside as the connection between elites and masses erodes.
Social inequalities continue to grow, and the ecological overshoot becomes more obvious. But citizens are hunkered down and cannot change their ways.
So now take a look at your existing strategic plans:
Are they still robust if “Too Fragile to Move” comes to pass?
### Scenario 4: Splitting in two

#### Global scenarios 2025

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- Crisis subsides quickly
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- Big changes to create resilient value chains
- China leads a new world order, ROW apart
- Gaps are growing more obvious
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- Closer to nature, but socially distant
In some countries, or regions of countries, COVID19 is rapidly contained, but in others it proves much harder to reign in. As a result quarantine borders go up – even within countries. But these borders keep changing as the virus spreads, fades and mutates.
A w-shape - just as recovery gathers pace, the economy takes another hit. Financial markets swing wildly and swings are not synchronised globally.
The nature of demand for products follows the pre-corona trend, BUT the competitive landscape is very different, as it is highly driven by state aids. This leads to a consolidation of players in many industries and the emergent of ever more giant companies. Size and subsidies make free trade between nations much harder.
New blocks are created as countries split between those tending to populism and those more towards science. These blocks also make former pillars of the world order - like NATO and the EU – are existent but dysfunctional.
Time is running out, but old inequalities are still growing, and the earth still losing resources faster than it can replace them. The problem is that citizens are facing too many other challenges to make big changes in behaviour.
So now take a look at your existing strategic plans:
Are they still robust if “Splitting in two” comes to pass?
Contact us for the full scenarios or to discuss your strategy options: info@4sing.com

The Eidos partners who created this include colleagues from:

Not to mention Dhiren Desa, Peter Gommers, Thorsten Schiffer and Ullrich Lorenz. Specific thanks to Jonathan Buhl & Petra Wiesbrock of 4Sing for this short summary.