



How has Covid-19 changed and challenged international relations and cooperation?

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ICN 16 December 2020

Virtual conference – first since ICN began in 2007



A global pandemic

By November 2020, COVID-19 spread to almost all countries and affected more than 50 million people around the world.

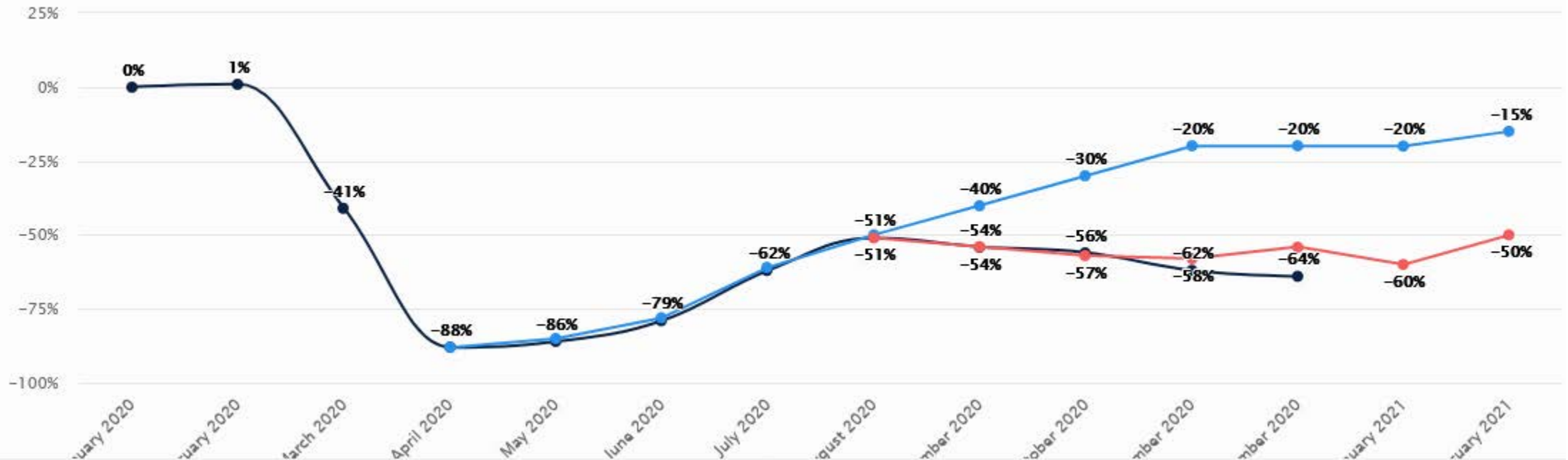
More than 1.25 million deaths.

More than half of the world's population has experienced a lockdown with strong containment measures – the first time in history that such measures are applied on such a large scale.



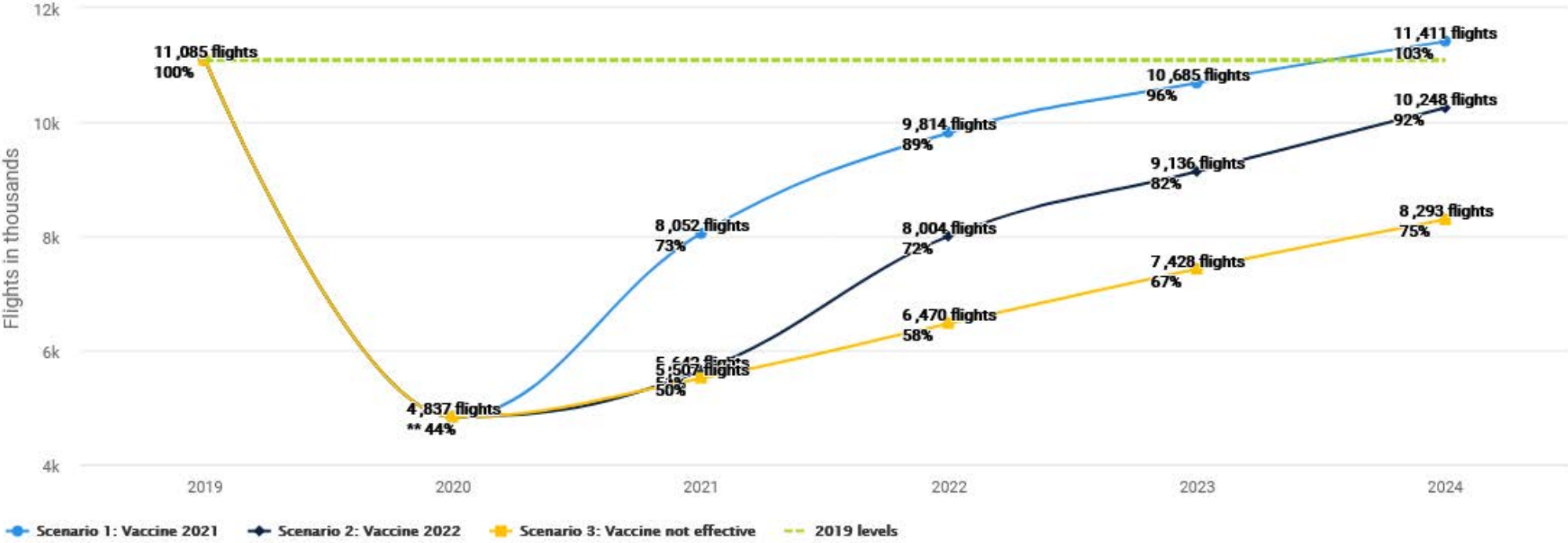
How did Covid change international relations? Air travel.

EUROCONTROL Draft Traffic Scenarios - 14 September 2020 (base year 2019/2020)



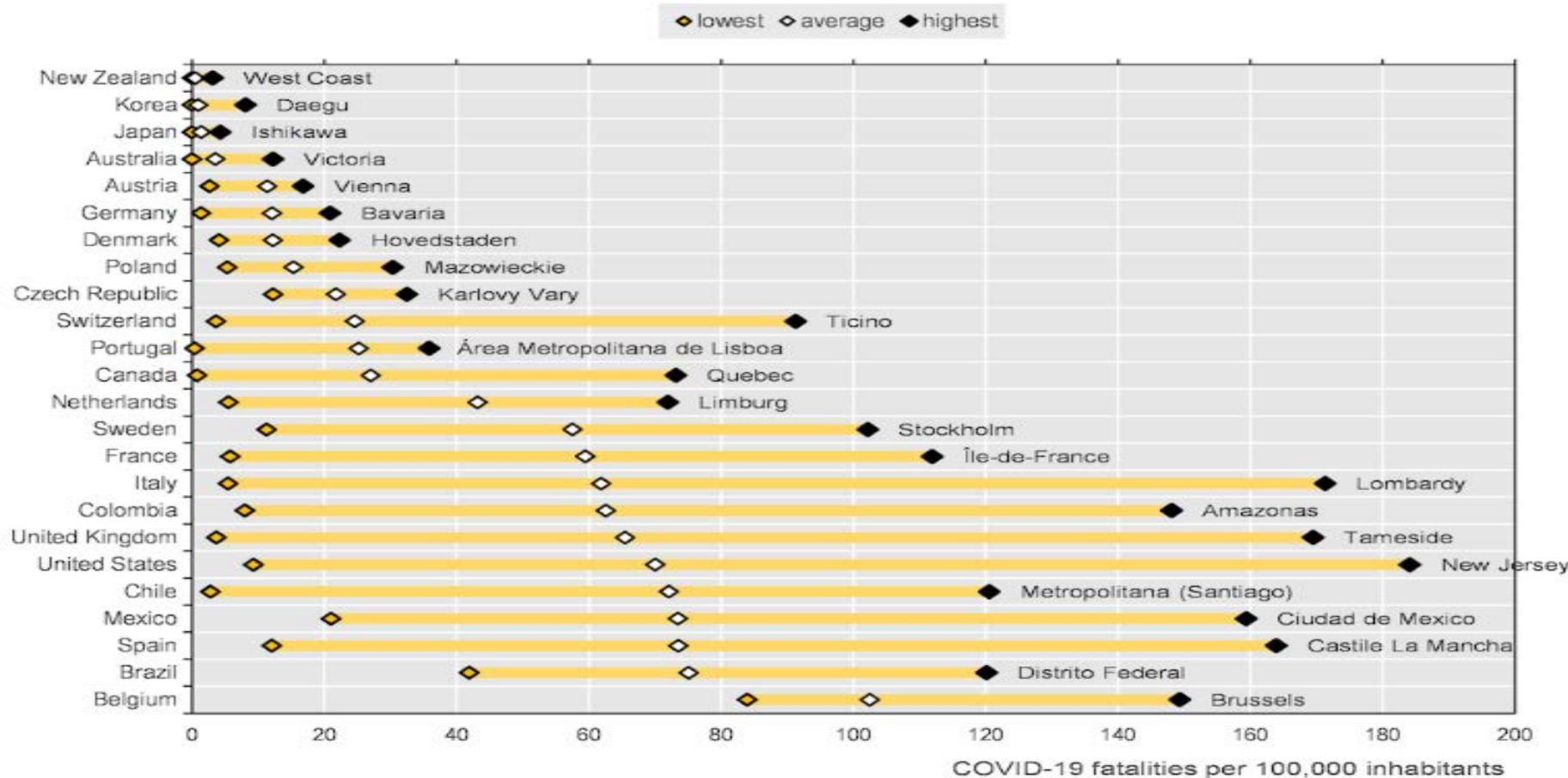
European air travel industry scenarios

Forecast for *Europe 2020-2024 - Actual and % change compared to 2019



Strong territorial dimension between and within countries

COVID-19 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants, NUTS-2 (TL2) regions as of November 2020



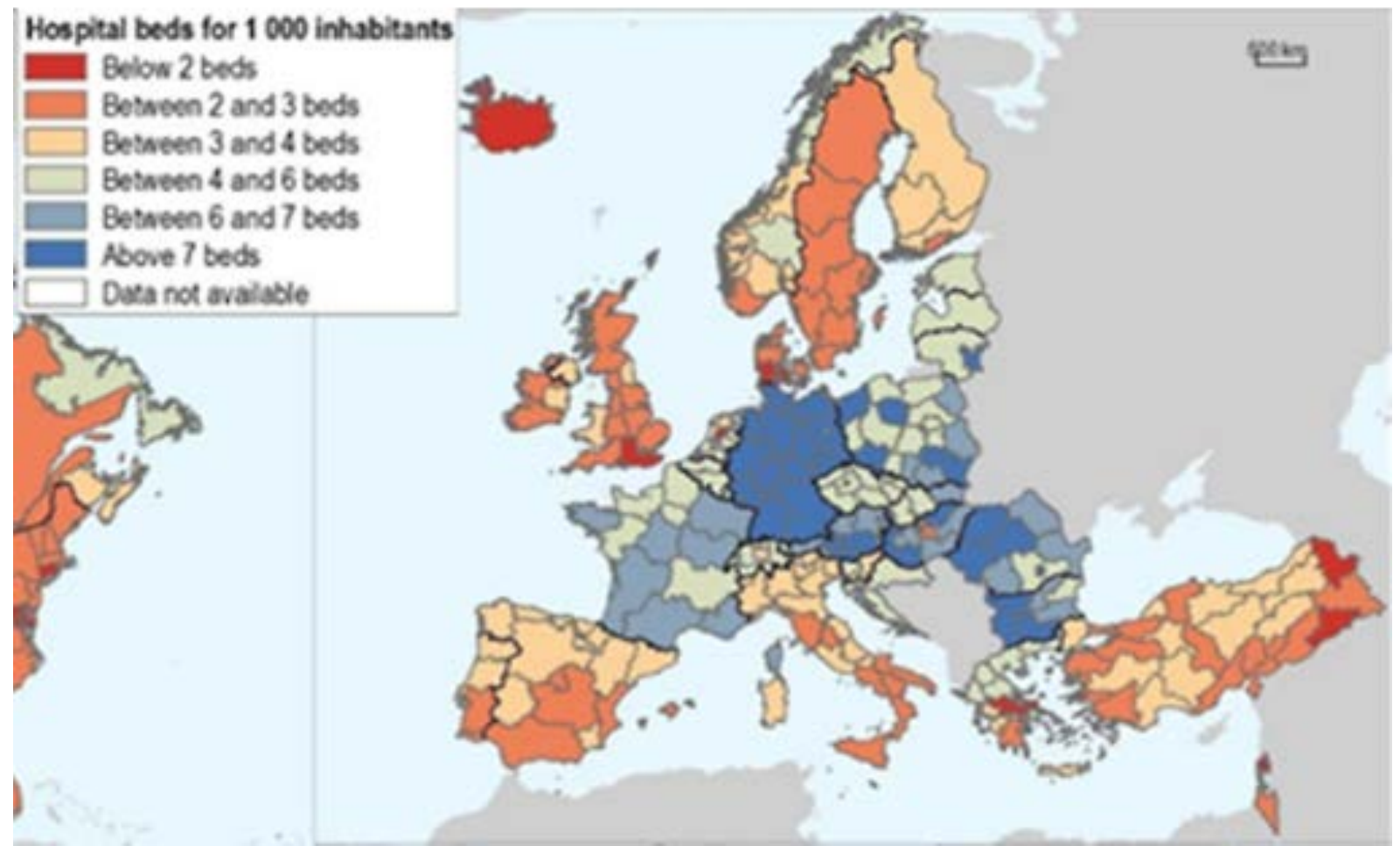
Why are there differences between places?

- Large cities, with their dense international links – including international markets, business travel, tourism, etc. – were often the entry points for the virus and were particularly affected.
- The problem is household density associated with poverty, poor housing conditions and limited access to health care.

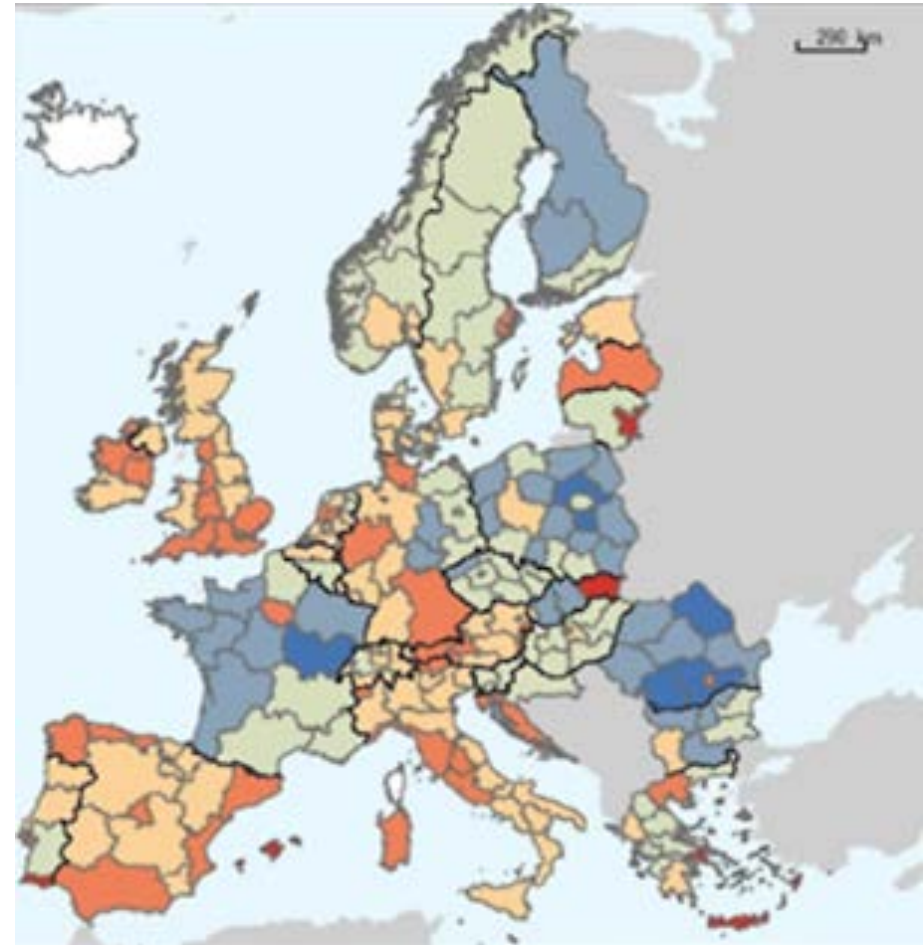
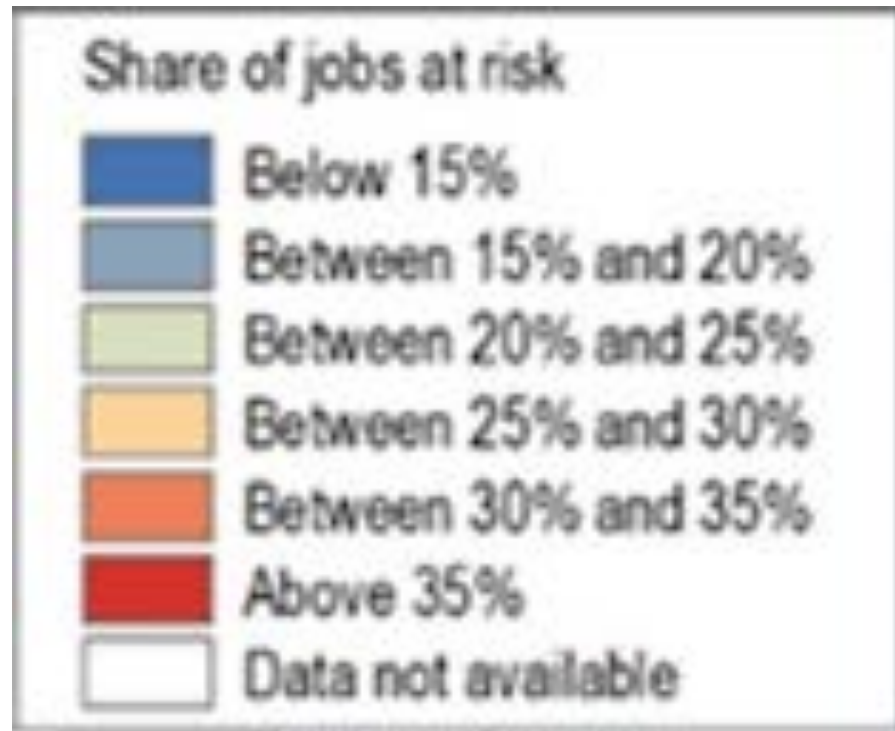


National and regional differences in preparedness

- Nordic countries have emergency plans.



Jobs at risk – travel, tourism and their supply chains are vulnerable.



Changes & challenges: Local government finances

- Rising expenditure
- Falling revenues
- Will this impact on attitudes to international cooperation?



Catalyst for digital transformation

- Urban areas have a 9 percentage point higher share of occupations that can be performed remotely than rural areas.
- In Sweden, Stockholm has 51% but Norra Mellansverige 33%.
- Lithuania Sostines 45%, Lietuvos 33%.
- Importance of broadband quality.



Cooperation for recovery

Public investment and action on:

- Health care, e.g. care of elderly and vulnerable groups.
- Digitisation, e.g. e-schooling, e-democracy.
- Transition to a carbon-neutral economy, e.g. switch to e-vehicles.



ICN: cooperation for recovery

- Challenges and opportunities for small towns and rural regions: cheaper housing + quality of life + broadband could attract new or returning residents.
- Strategies for culture and tourism based development will require an effective vaccine.
- Crisis management partnerships.

More than 340 new infectious diseases have arisen since the 1940s as habitat destruction and industrialised agriculture have brought people into increasing contact with animal populations.

Expect more crises