

# New emerging risk insights

### **Swiss Re SONAR**





## Emerging risk @ Swiss Re

SWISS RE 150 YEARS



## The risk landscape

Core modelled risks		
Property and casualty  Costing and reserving  Inflation  Man-made risks  Natural catastrophes	Life and health Lethal pandemic Longevity Mortality trend	Financial market and credit  Credit (default and migration)  Credit spread  Equity market  Foreign exchange  Interest rate  Real estate  FM inflation
Other significant risks		
Operational	Liquidity	Strategic
Regulatory	Political	Sustainability
Emerging risks		



### Where does emerging risk emerge from?

### Emerging risks arise due to

- discovery of new previously unperceived risk factors and related risk exposures
  - → novel risks: e.g., biotechnology, nanotechnology, blockchain, antiobiotic resistance etc.
  - Risks as a consequence of technological, social, economic and political progress and development
- discovery of previously unidentified and underestimated exposures to known risk factors
  - → latent risks: e.g., hurricane Katrina 2005: exposure to storm surge and wind were not aggregated resulting in higher than expected losses
  - Risks as a consequences of underestimated or not foreseen risk factor correlations in existing or future underwriting or investment portfolios
- changes in the interdependencies of risk factors.
  - → mutating risks: e.g., Changed legal treatment of asbestos exposure
  - Risks as a consequence of changing regulation, legislation, industry practices or more.



# Insurance: Looking back is not sufficient to prepare for tomorrow's risks





Historical data

Foresight information

Yesterday's experience



Tomorrow's exposure



## The challenges of foresight

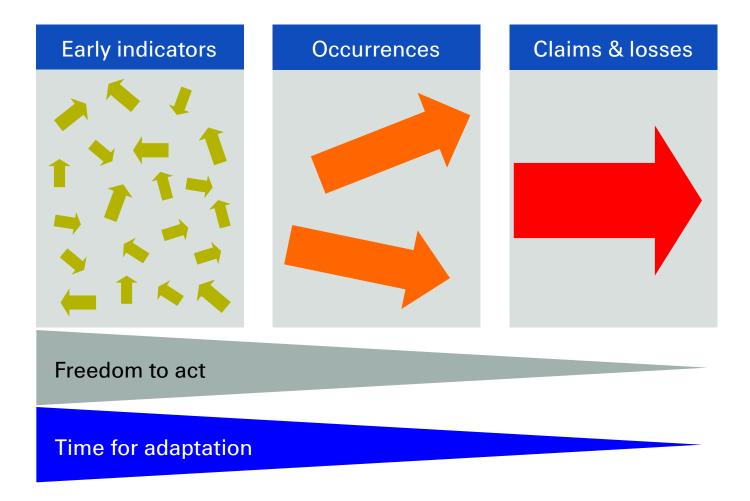
### Foresight information is

- ✓ by definition unstructured
- ✓ not quantified and often not quantifiable
- ✓ derived from scenarios
- √ long-term, at the horizon or beyond the horizon
- √ disputed in importance, significance and impact
- ✓ difficult to incorporate in an actuarially-driven environment



But: It is neglected at your own peril!

# Picking up early indicators ensures freedom to act and time for adaptation







## New emerging risk insights



### Global macro trends shape tomorrow's risk landscape

#### **Societal Environment**

- Growing middle class in High Growth Markets
- Longevity and chronic diseases
- Connected & collaborative society
- Radical medical innovation
- Mass migration and urbanisation
- The future of work & talent gaps

#### **Competitive & Business Environment**

- Retention of reinsurance risks by primary insurers
- Shifting role of re/insurance brokers
- Convergence of alternative and traditional capital
- Market entrances of non-insurance companies form new ecosystems
- Regional champions going global
- Increasing digital customer interaction

#### **Political Environment**

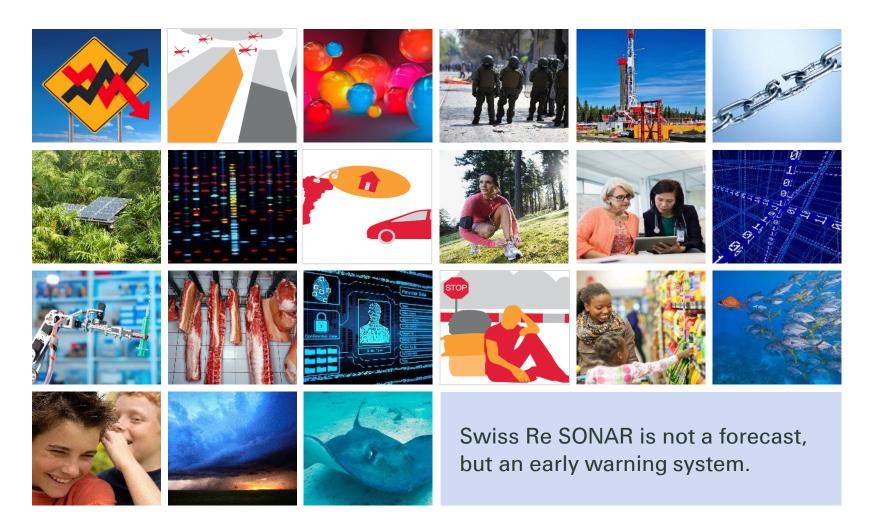
- Public sector moving risk to private sector
- Increasing government influence and regulations, "nationalisation"
- Volatility of economic powers in emerging markets
- Geopolitical instability & divergence
- Low yield environment

#### **Technological & Natural Environment**

- Climate change
- Enhanced economics of non-carbon energy
- Massive expansion of cyber risk
- Digital analytics (Big Data and smart analytics)
- Cognitive computing
- Internet of Things
- Autonomous vehicles and drones



# The 2016 edition of Swiss Re SONAR presents 21 new emerging risk themes ...





## ... and 5 emerging trend spotlights

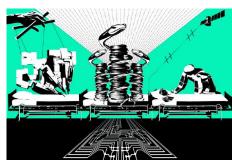


Emerging trend spotlights highlight current developments which we deem interesting to follow, although they have not yet manifested into risks.









Health 4.0



Cyborgisation



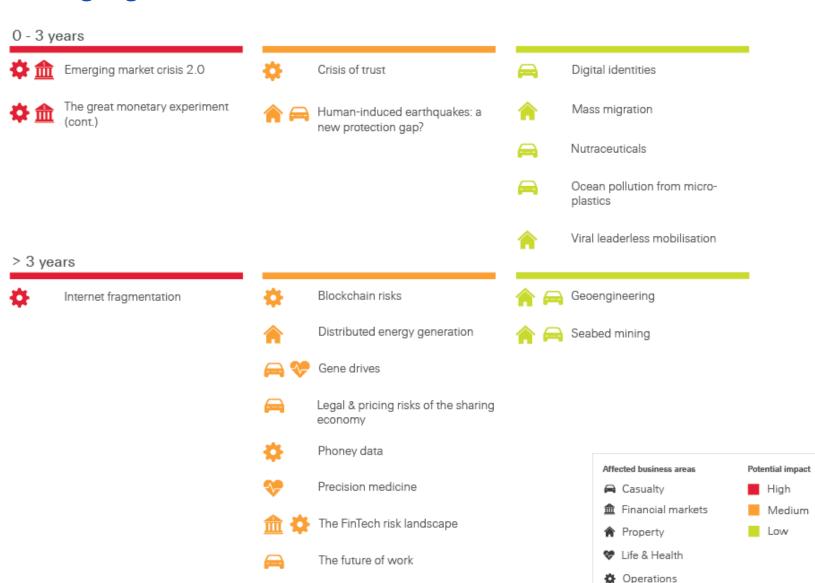
**Smart cities** 



Space race reloaded



# The 2016 edition of Swiss Re SONAR presents 21 new emerging risk themes



The meat story: Beefing about beef

# Human-induced earthquakes – a new protection gap?



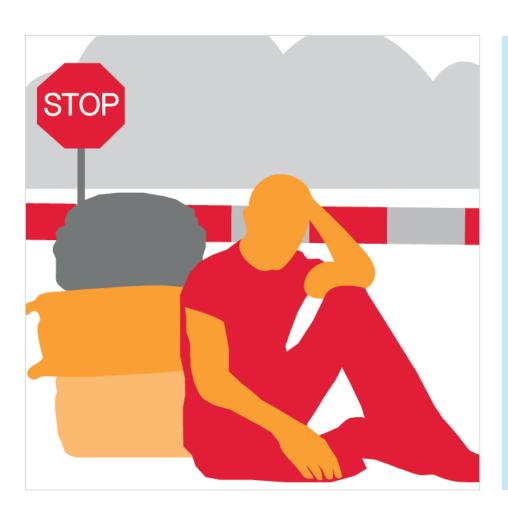
- A rising number of earthquakes are linked to human activities such as hydrofracking
- Most insurance risk models do not incorporate the associated increase in seismic hazard
- Losses arising from the rapidly rising number of human-induced seismic events are largely uninsured or fall into the deductible of traditional earthquake insurance products
  - ⇔ Growing protection gap for businesses and households in exposed areas

### The future of work



- Artificial intelligence and robotics enable a "4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution" where automation and M2M communication dominate industrial production
- This will increase productivity, but will also make many current jobs obsolete
- Mass unemployment could result in a shrinking customer base for personal insurance and a reduced portfolio for employers' liability
- Insurance might find new opportunities in supporting the growth of a new informal economy

## Mass migration



- We are currently facing the worst refugee crisis since World War II
- More than 1.2 million people have sought asylum in the EU in 2015
- Migration pressures across borders will likely continue to increase due to a number of unresolved, protracted crises in many regions of the world
- While this is a major topic for society, we expect only minor impacts for insurers

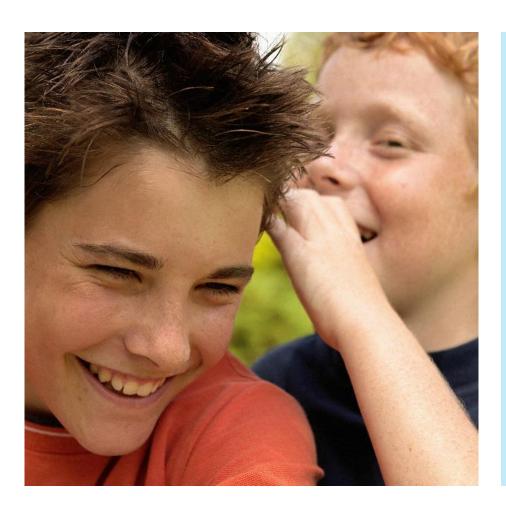
## Ocean pollution from microplastics



- Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic which find their way to the ocean through waste water containing cosmetic products or through break-down of larger plastic objects
- They can bind a variety of (potentially toxic) chemicals on their surface, which then accumulate in the food chain
- Environmental groups are advocating for a ban on microplastics, and regulation starts catching up
- There could be impacts on liability covers

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### Viral leaderless mobilisation



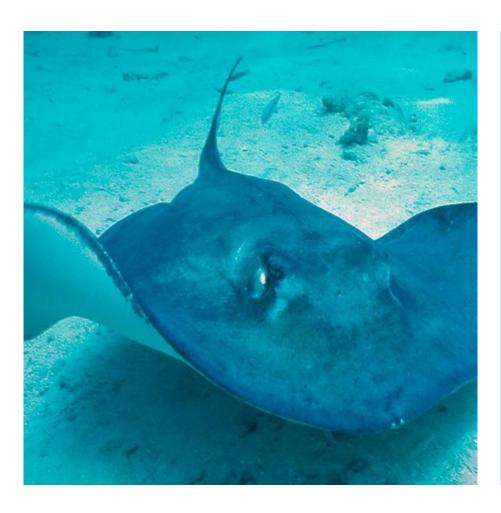
- Smartphones and social media increase the number of communication channels and enable viral spreading of messages and calls for action
- In a social environment with high levels of individual frustration, youth unemployment and disillusionment this could trigger more riots with corresponding losses
- 'Public shaming' campaigns may hurt a company's reputation and lead customer loss and stock devaluation

### Geoengineering



- Geoengineering is the deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems to counteract climate change:
  - > Solar radiation management
  - > Carbon dioxide removal
- Public acceptance is currently very low, but this could change with a growing number of climate-change related extreme events
- Potentially huge liability exposures due to unintended side effects

## Sea-bed mining



- Experimental industrial field focusing on extracting submerged minerals and deposits from the sea floor
- Technological advances and increasing global demand for metals and rare earth elements may make it economically viable in the near future
- There are concerns about the potential impact on fragile marine ecosystems, and regulation may change → uncertainty rg. potential exposures



## Conclusion



### Swiss Re SONAR in a nutshell

Emerging risks are an important concern for the insurance industry and its clients, and awareness has risen steadily over the last years.

With **SONAR**, Swiss Re has established a solid process for identifying, assessing and managing emerging risks.



Swiss Re SONAR presents insights on **21 new emerging risk topics**.



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