

Welcome to the future of Government

CityState

CityState is a world in which authority is decentralized to the city level and pragmatism trumps idealism in addressing collective issues.

How did we get here?

Urbanization leads to the growth in the number of cities and their size and consolidation. The scale of cities means they can innovate and get things done more easily, which raises their relevance and power vis-à-vis national governments. This is the time of the mayor, who now has political star power.

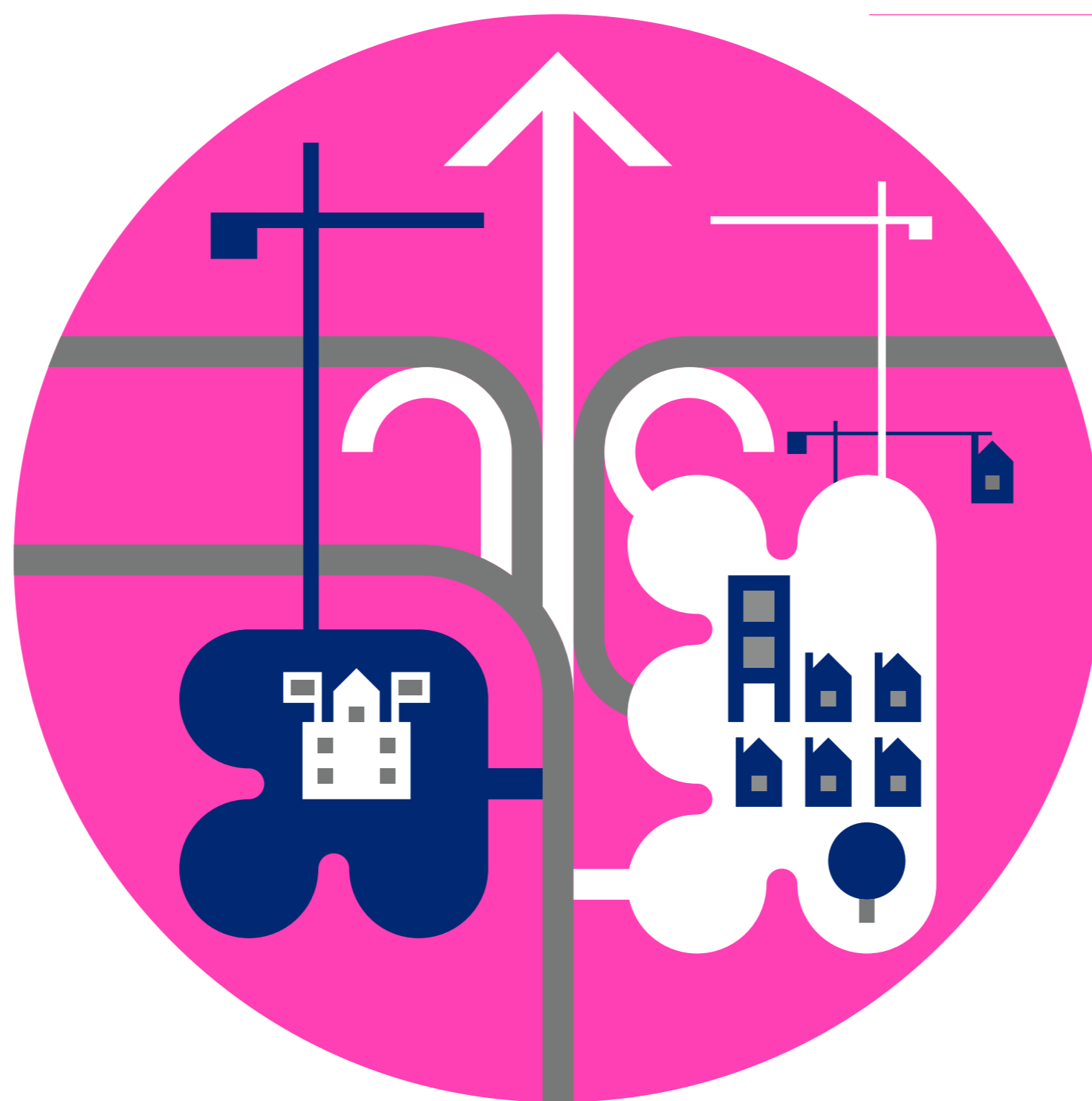
Strong urban rural divide: Cities and city states become the main centres of political power, given economic interdependence and shared values among people.

Cities collaborate on local problems: Cities, rather than nations, are centres of innovation as the scale of policy-making and service delivery allows for rapid and responsive change. Collaboration between cities and mega regions on policies and best practices also shapes selected global issues.

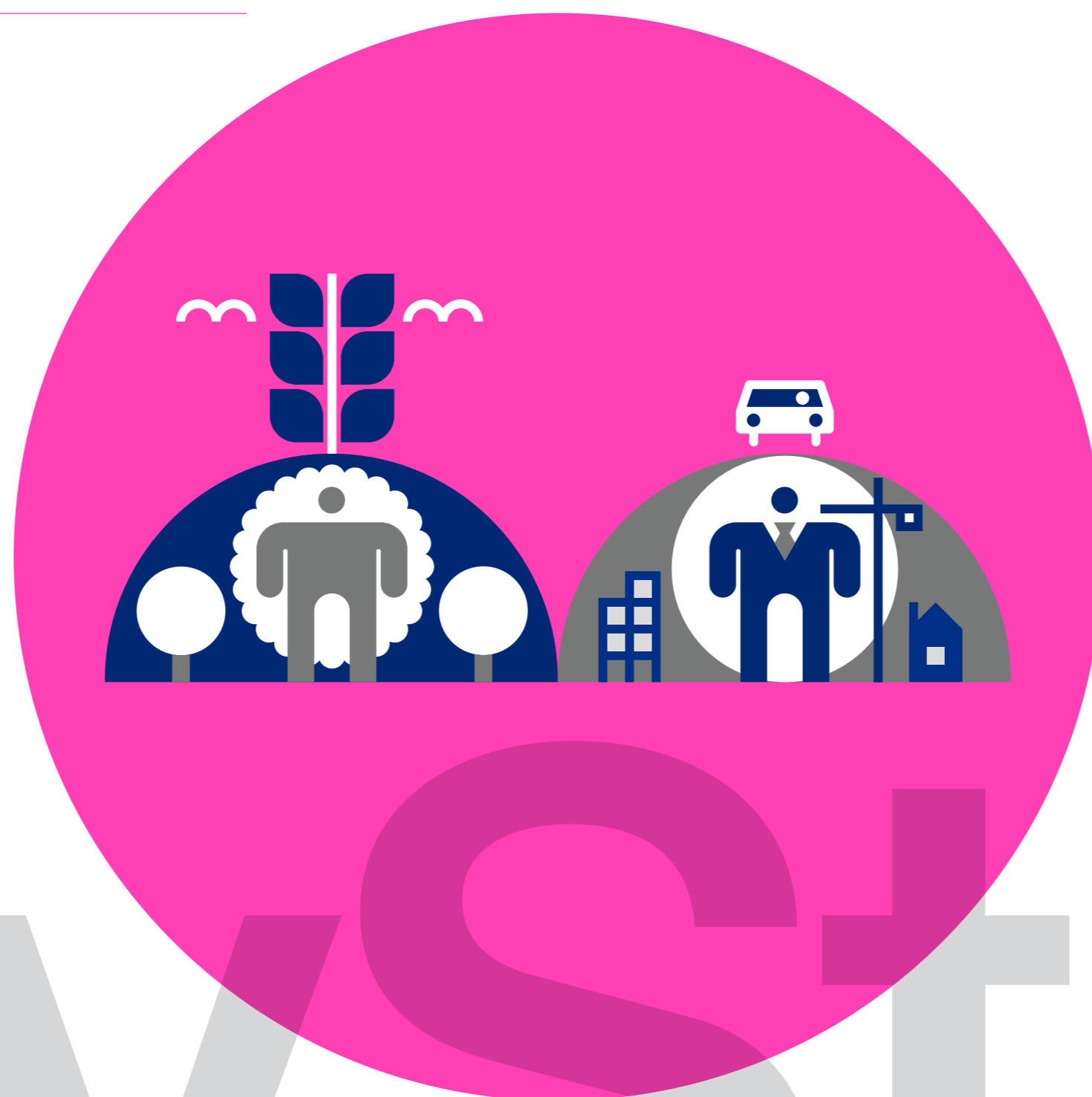
Setting the Scene
The future can be imagined in different ways. The World Economic Forum's Strategic Foresight team and the Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government have developed three scenarios on how the world of governance could evolve by 2050. The scenarios aim to support strategic dialogue on the options we have in the present to shape desired governance systems of the future.

Through its Strategic Foresight activities, the World Economic Forum aims to support stakeholders in better understanding and addressing the complex problems and turbulence that societies are increasingly facing.
wef.ch/foresight

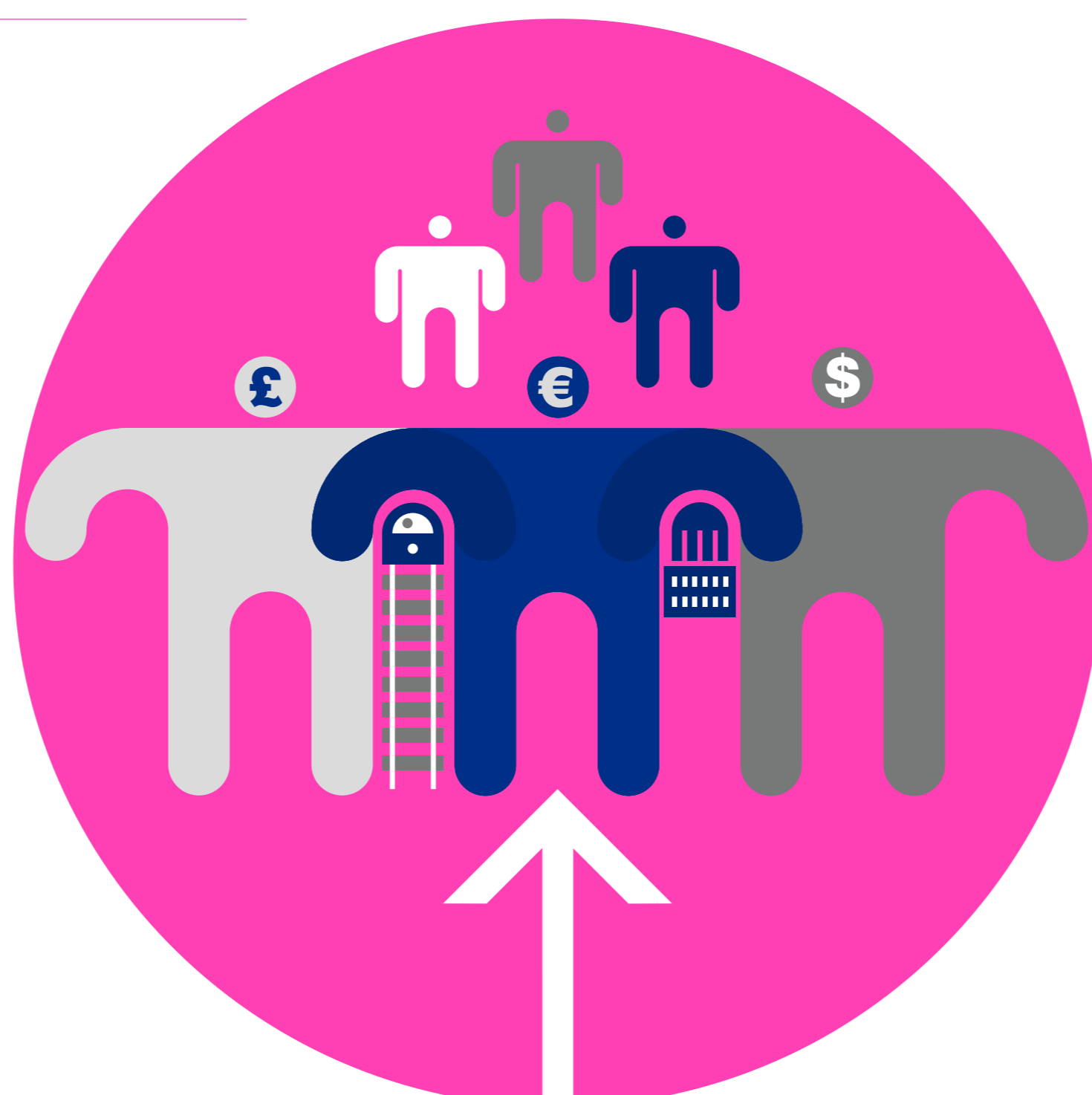
The World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government consists of 15 of the most innovative experts and leading practitioners considering the new demands, new expectations and a fast-growing array of new technologies and tools facing governments around the world.
wef.ch/futgovgac



Connections are made between cities into mega-corridors: The consolidation of cities into mega-corridors, which span national and state borders has also led to more autonomous city states. Government has decentralized from national to local authorities with most of these located in the growing number of cities.



Wide diversity of political systems across cities: Citizens identify more strongly with the cities they live in, which provide them with a sense of belonging, rather than concepts such as nation states.



What could you be asking yourself in CityState?
How can cities best promote policy and governance innovation?
Is this world prone to conflict? Is global collective action still possible and, if so, how?
What becomes of national and regional political constructs?
What are the consequences of rising charisma and personality politics?
What will be the impact of migration and how will it be managed?

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