



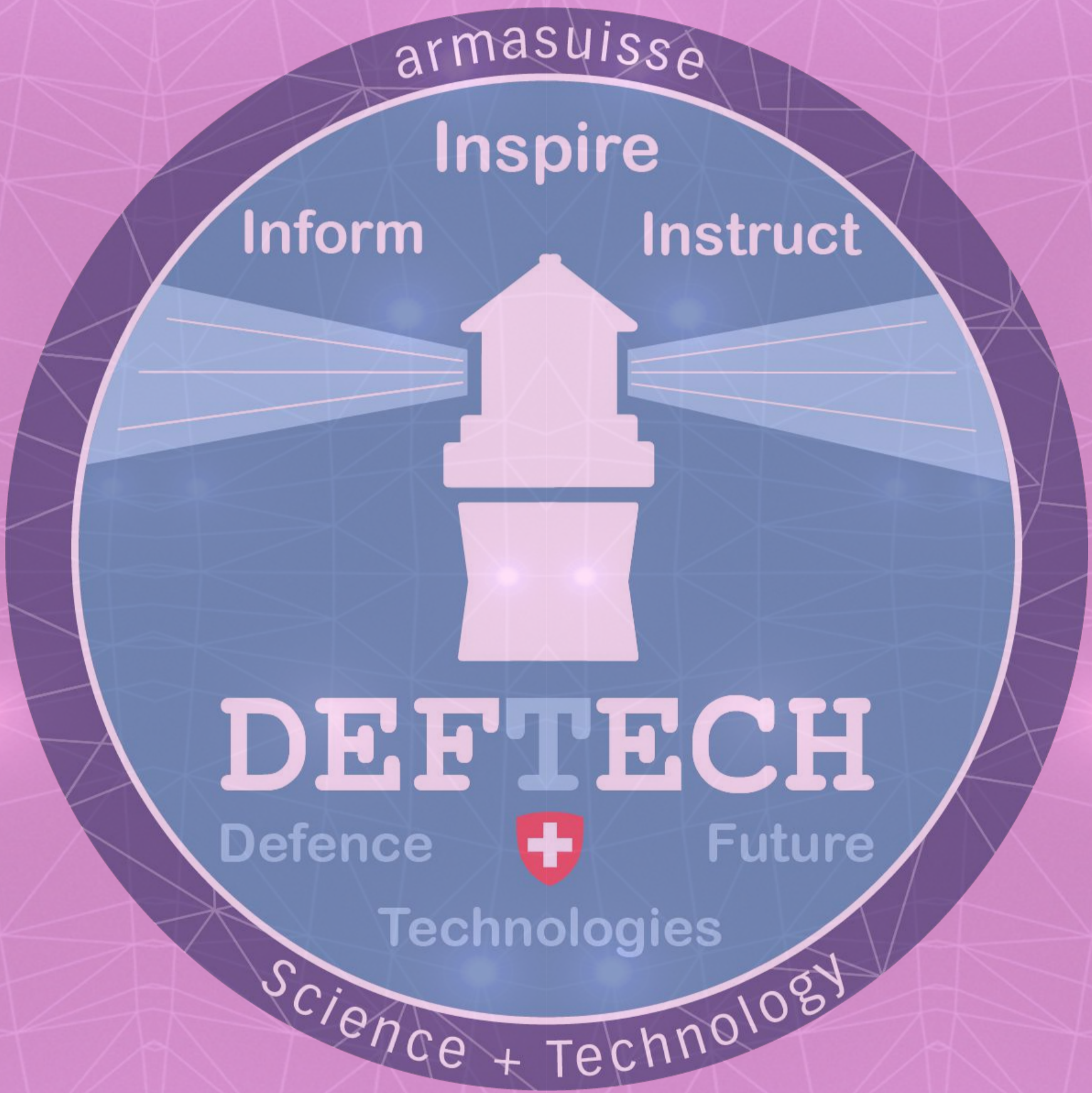
# Socio-economic Trends

Understand the environment in which your systems will operate!



- 1 Spread of terrorist activity** | Terrorist groups and terrorist activities are on the rise globally, founded in ideological and religious fanaticism, and fueled by alienation of individuals and groups. Terrorist activities affect both post-conflict and at peace societies, both autocratic and democratic regimes, and almost have become a part of "the new normal". Terrorist actions are often carried out with very basic means such as knives or civilian vehicles.
- 2 Asymmetrical adversaries** | Non state (armed) groups create asymmetric settings for warfare, and so do "below the war threshold" activities by "little green men". These groups can have access to state of the art technologies, and creativity as well as flexibility/reactivity might be part of their strength. This configuration of warfare also complicates the distinction between military and civilian.
- 3 More urban operations** | As the world populations grows and urbanisation increases rapidly around the globe, modern battlefields/future battlefields will be more likely to be urban.
- 4 Civilians in areas of conflict** | "Collateral damage" is on the rise as combatants mingle with the civilian population and are targeted by the adversary (Syria, Iraq). Urban operations will make that trend grow.
- 5 Rise in migration** | Global inequalities, displacement, war and economic misery, dreams of a better life, in combination with increased global connectivity and networks (information flows and via criminal organisations that profit from migration needs) have caused one of the largest migration waves in modern times, with routes going from South to North and East to West. This causes backlashes in the recipient societies and drain human capital from the countries of origin.
- 6 Ideological fanaticism** | Societal developments are becoming ever more desynchronised, both intra- and intersocietal, pitting completely different outlooks against each other.
- 7 Hybrid warfare** | Hybrid warfare has been on the rise during the past decade. As a strategy it employs warfare in the entire PMESI spectrum and essentially blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare and cyberwarfare with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy and foreign electoral intervention. The strategy poses a complex challenge to the attacked entity in terms of how to react and with which means.
- 8 Industrial innovation lead and dual use** | The original trend that innovation was produced in a military context and then spread to the civilian world has been reversed for some time already. Most civilian technologies can be adapted for a use in a military context and turned into effective means to support or produce military effects (hence also undermining armaments control and the power monopoly of the state)
- 9 Weapon systems democratisation** | Effective effectors are accessible and affordable basically for everyone who wants.
- 10 Internet dependency** | The Internet of things and the connectedness of weapons system and network centric warfare create new vulnerabilities (hacking and disabling systems) on all levels and in all components of societies (individual, economy/ industry, governments)
- 11 Real-time information** | Realtime info for everyone wherever, whenever, and the spread of fake news are changing how people and governments react to or create real or perceived threats and zones of conflict)
- 12 Improving AI** | AI continues to improve/adapt through progressive learning algorithms and analyzes more and deeper data achieving ever greater accuracy. It can be found in civilian and military applications, leading towards systems autonomy and increasing the gap with what Human Intelligence only can achieve.
- 13 Miniaturisation** | Miniaturisation is a general trend in current commercial and military electronic system design, and that trend is expected to continue, pertaining to all kinds of weapon systems and enabling technology, making items lighter, less visible, etc.
- 14 Electricity & energy dependency** | Most of the systems and elements of the everyday life are dependent on electricity. Not accessing that source for a day or two could already generate major instabilities and social challenges. More broadly, energy dependency of modern societies and militaries have a strategic impact too: in term of being a reason for (armed) conflict, and considering energy availability as a critical success factor/imperative prerequisite to run armed forces and systems in battle.
- 15 Internet dependency** | Global dependencies involving different nations and entitites make production chains vulnerable and complex. In an interconnected world in which competences are not always available locally and global supply chains and value chains increasingly complex, these interlinkages may impact warfare and strategic autonomy in case of conflict.
- 16 Undermining law of war** | Armaments control regimes as well as the law of war (Geneva convention etc.) are in decline especially due to forces with non-combatant status.
- 17 Battle of the narratives** | The information domain including social media plays an ever more important role in modern/future warfare.





<https://deftech.ch>

