

AN ORGANISATION FOR PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIETY (OPUS)

Russia and the World at the Dawn of 2015 Report of a New Year's Listening Post



Encouraging The Reflective Citizen

Part 1. THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES.

In this part of the Listening Post participants were invited to identify, contribute, and explore their experience in their various social roles, be those in work, unemployed, or retired; as members of religious, political, neighbourhood or voluntary or leisure organisations, or as members of families and communities. This part was largely concerned with what might be called, 'the stuff of people's everyday lives', that relating to the 'socio' or 'external' world of participants.

We and the area around us.

Civil servants are required to attend meetings in support of government policies, and carry balloons "Putin is right" because of the fear of dismissal. Compared with the time of Soviet Union when demonstrations were a real holidays nowadays the demonstration, which artificially organized disgust as those who participate in them, and those who look at them. People are satisfied with their roles of teachers and entrepreneurs and enjoy their work, but they are not satisfied with the relationship of power. The fear of punishment still very strong in the society and recently adopted more laws, giving rise to fear. One of the participants remembered words of one Russian satirist about Russia and people in the Russia "population with great difficulty inhabiting this country".

Disgusted by the flood of lies on the main television channels, expressing the official view of many participants react by creating their own world. This may be the world of family, or virtual communities, or just a position of observer.

2014 year was declared the year of culture in Russia. Simultaneously "polite people" in green uniforms without identification signs became a symbol of capture the Crimea. «Polite people» became a symbol of the expression of another culture of relations, based on permissiveness and lack of law. As the result, we as members of our society have become victims of sanctions.

We are looking for ways to be free inside the reality that we have. Some participants feel that they live in the country lags far behind

civilization

Volunteering is the emotional level of society life and way to be active inside the current rules.

Part 2. IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

In Part 2 the aim was to collectively identify the major themes emerging from Part 1. From several presented these have been drawn together under the following interrelated themes:

- «They» -: Government, West (US and Europe), those who support the government's policy
- Fear
- Willingness to change
- Culture
- Freedom
- Lie
- Power

Part 3. ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

In this part of the Listening Post the members were working with the information resulting from Parts 1 & 2, with a view to collectively identifying the underlying dynamics both conscious and unconscious that may be predominant at the time; and, developing hypotheses as to why they might be occurring at that moment. Here the members were working more with what might be called their 'psycho' or 'internal' world. Their collective ideas and ways of thinking that both determine how they perceive the external realities and shape their actions towards them. The resulting analysis has been distilled into the following hypothesis:

Our hypothesis is built around stratification of society based on the search of the enemy. Someone sees a problem in the country and so corrupt officials and thieves are their enemy. Someone thinks that inside problems are impossible and sees NATO countries as enemies and sincerely believes in the threat from the outside. Also important a different understanding of the role of the father figure. Symbolic father usually an authority figure, whose decisions can not be questioned. In order not to lose internal reliance, a majority of citizens fully support and avoid criticizing Father's decision.

Those who do not support or believe in the official explanation of the events are forced to live in fear of persecution and find a way to adapt to the society. They try to find way to exist in the very splitting into good and bad. The other possibility is to emigrate.

The meeting participants drew attention to the sharp decline in the

number of participants compared to last year. If we assume that this is the beginning of the trend, it means that internally experiencing their belonging to society, people are not ready for real action.

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