



Encouraging The Reflective Citizen

Part 1. THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

Participants openly and expressed major themes based on events and facts they lived in 2012. This was unconstructive discussion, seemed, that participants were trying to name as much as they remember. One theme was followed by another, me as a listener wrote down 23 interesting topic.

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 three interrelated themes:

1. Olympic Spirit: Peace of mind for peace on the world

This theme contained various versions around 2012 Olympic games London. For Lithuania that was one of most successful Olympic Games, we got new talent – Ruta Meilutyte, swimmer. What does it gave for us, for our country? What Olympic Games has inside, that all world, all people around the word is gathering together without any politic, wars, religion, etc... Why? What is in it what we're not using for everyday? If everybody – from down Africa, to Far East, everybody from around the world can understand principle of Olympic spirit? So the world would be better, same time continue compete, but reaching for more, for improvement. What Lithuanians would be if we could capture that feeling after our 'gold girl' gets another Gold medal and all world admits us, as small but strong nation (although everybody remembers our history and being annexed for 50 years). Then maybe our country could be as young not well known worldwide, but leader in some field, and bring some positive 'surprise' to the world, which later would lead us to more satisfaction and better life to every inhabitant.

It was also felt that there some unity for short time – I would say even good memories brings small group to Olympic Games feeling.

2. Elections. Hope?

2012 we captured as year of elections – we had elections to Lithuanian Parliament. France, USA president and some other elections were named. Discussion were more about local elections and why society has 'wobbling' effect – every 4 years going from political right to sharp left and back after 4 years. Why people are so easy bought by promises of politician's? Processes of elections were discussed and momentum of believing in better future status quo, that is now. Is that programmed in all human nations to live on hope? Or it's just mentality or impact of not mature politic (Lithuania gain independency 20 years ago). Then was discussed France a presidential election where mature society and traditions, but still every election is also bringing some hoping for better...

What was in Barrack Obama, that he was re-elected? Is that he changed his politic and promised some new hope? Americans are different, or elections differ from European? Is their mentality different?

Developing this theme groups almost agreed that it's in human kind – constant change, hope for development, for progress. And elections are just an expression of this.

3. Emigration-Immigration. Positive or negative?

This discussion in the beginning split group to two mind poles. Then in some particular moment emotions and dynamic in group were on high level. Me as a listener was several times returning group back to topic, because most of group members were starting to predominant with own opinion and were off the topic. Main common topic were discussed – emigration effected positively our country unemployment rate (but's just a rate), thus we had very big social gap – potential working labour is decreasing locally, there is lot of families split, children left at home (some even left without both parents), cultural and national identity is no longer kept in emigrants families.

As opposite fact were discussed immigration – potential benefit to our country economy, woman part of the group expressed concern, that there not enough of local good men left, so immigrants sometimes gives good potential to find husband (talking about middle east, Arabic countries where men perceived give more attention kindness for woman). Then discussion gets sex dynamic. And again were discussed that our nation is losing identity, culture, and traditions. As common agreement were agreed that our country is so big to fit a lot of immigrants, so we should be open, but regulate immigration. After it were clear that discussion went to cultural identity, history and values as nation we have (are losing). Can we as individuals or small group have an impact this? Can governments or nations have impact on this? Or this is globalisation processes and they will evolve more and more in future? Is it so negative? Maybe it's positive?

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.

Analysis and Hypothesis

Olympic Spirit: Peace of mind for peace on the world

Analysis: Olympic Games as an event are so big, so famous, and so important to every member of society that is not leaving space for bad emotions at that time. This thought was developed answering question why at the time of Olympic Games all wars, politic, social problems go to back. Word sport leaders showing unity, good will, good emotions and it spreads around to every country. Sportsmen's are best ambassadors of world peace and unity at the time of Olympic period. What *IT* is in Olympic Games? And what is in *IT* – continues for ages?

Another angle of analysis was about this Olympic Games were first where disabled runner was running with regular runners. This demolishes line between not just social factors, but even more. Were analyzed fact – “everybody can”. There is a place for everybody. Olympic unifies rich countries with poorest, black with white, able to disable, Catholic to Muslim – it gives clear message – “what if world could capture *IT* and implement to every society, every country, every family, everybody... not just for two weeks in every four year?”

Hypothesis: Defined, captured and implemented Olympic spirit – *IT* – could lead ‘world peace’.

Convener: