# AN ORGANISATION FOR PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIETY (OPUS)

**Portugal and the World at the Dawn of 2016**
**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 preoccupations and experiences in their various social roles.

The six participants were a psychotherapist, a teacher and storyteller , a psychologist, a computer engineer, a marketer and publicist, and a trainee and a coach, from 30 to 56 years old. This group seems to reflect the worries and experiences of a variety of people, who have already stablish their careers but are striving to identify with our current society.

## Part 2: IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

In Part 2 the aim was to collectively identify the major themes emerging from Part 1.

Themes were not easy to summarize, however they can be grouped as the following:

a)   Insecurity, lack of trust in the system, justice is perverse
b)   Loneliness vs virtual society
c)   Lack of independency
d)   Things only exist if they become public, if not they don´t seem to be important or matter. What doesn't happen on TV doesn´t seem to be resolved, people are losing their abilities and their tools to resolve problems
e)   Very empty society, lack of integrity on people. People are not able to recognize their mistakes. Lack of conscience and of references. Lack of lucidity
f)   Education. We are not stimulating thinking. We are formatting people
g)   People don't have time to be with their children, and then we have a lot of children with hyperactive and Asperger syndromes, highly medicated. It's a vicious cycle.
h)   We lived on the paradigm that jobs would be guaranteed, then people don't know what to do, don't know how to look for jobs, don't accept temporary jobs

i)    Our society is full of technique, of science, of internet, of receipts "how to conquer in 10 steps…". There's a great lack of art, creativity We lost the  magic of knowledge transmitted by generation, by word, by being in relation

j)    We invented things because things frustrate us, with the benefice principle, but then it's dangerous

## Part 3: ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

*In this part of the Listening Post the members are working with the information resulting from Parts 1 and 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 are 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.*

### Analysis and Hypothesis 1

Our group end up linking a lot of the themes emerged on part1 as being a consequence of our education system. So, we all feel like our system is not stimulating thinking, creativity, nor individuality. The system is very close and is trying to put all the children in the same box, instead of taking in mind the potential of all different children. More serious than that is that people are working to much, most of the times far from home, and far from families support, so parents end up spending most of their times in their jobs, and much less time with their children, this mean that children end up being in school and stuck in school activities too long, when they finally get home there's no time for family quality time. There is no more time for traditional transmission of knowledges, stories, and "grandparents wisdoms".

Children had never been so medicated, there has been an outbreak of hyperactive, depression, asperger's síndrome and so on.

### Hypothesis 1

Having in mind that our education system is based a lot on science questions, is formatted, fragmented, incomplete,  reduced and castrating. Instead of valuing art, creativity, and individuality and most of all critical thinking. Thus, it drives to a ill and self-destructive society, full of prejudice, intolerance to what is  different, tyrrany, violence and misjudgments.

### Analysis and Hypothesis 2

**Hypothesis 2**

Because people are feeling very lonely they end up being stuck into a consumption unmeasured, into the virtual realities and relationships, into the high levels of medications, and paradoxically they cliv their relationships and abandon (old people for example). Thus there are more insecurity.

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