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"FROM COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO
THE INVISIBLE OLD LEARNERS: SIGNPOSTS OF TODAY'S
SOUTHERN EUROPE REALITY?"

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THE INVISIBLE OLD LEARNERS?

Factors that determine
participation in learning
in all its dimensions

Are these factors...

Structural and out of
our direct control...?

Adequate to fight back
with actions depending of
learning itself... ?

Fig 1. % of population between 18-64 years that participated in activities of lifelong learning (ALV), formal learning, non-formal learning and informal learning (NE, 2007)

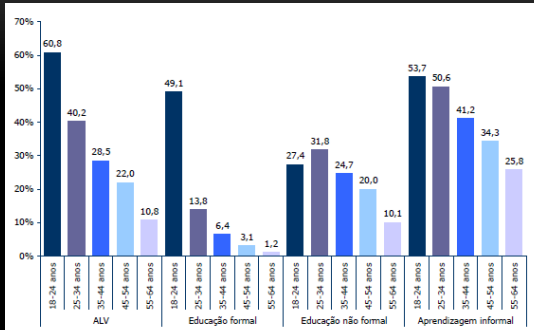


Fig 2. % of population between 18-64 years that participated in activities of lifelong learning (ALV), formal learning, non-formal learning and informal learning, by academic level (INE, 2007)

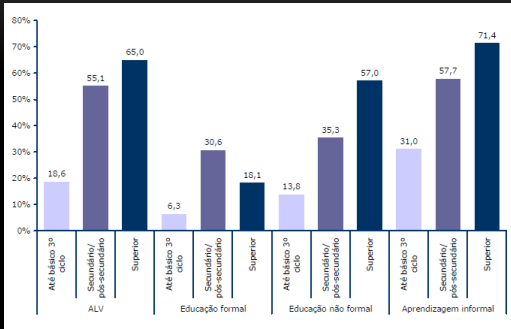


Table 1: Individuals between 18-64 years who participated in lifelong learning and non-formal education (%), according to gender and monthly income (source: INE, 2009)

	LLL			Non-formal education		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Less than 500 €	19,2%	19,2%	19,2%	14,9%	15,6%	14,5%
500 - 750 €	27,4%	22,6%	35,4%	23,5%	19,3%	30,4%
750 - 1000 €	40,5%	36,4%	49,5%	35,9%	32,2%	43,9%
1000 - 1500 €	53,5%	48,9%	61,2%	50,1%	45,4%	58,0%
1500 - 2000 €	60,2%	55,0%	67,4%	58,3%	52,2%	66,9%
2000 - 3000 €	72,0%	71,5%	73,1%	68,4%	67,8%	69,7%
More than 3000 €	75,0%	68,8%	91,4%	72,4%	68,8%	82,0%

FACTORS THAT DETERMINE PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING

- Age
- Social and economic status
- Academic level
- To be able to speak at least one foreign language
- To have basic skills on ICT



Between
Structure and Agency

TYPICAL PROFILE OF THE PEOPLE WHO **DO NOT** PARTICIPATE IN LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- More than 45 years old
- Academic background: less than 9 years of schooling
- Inhabits isolated or in weak density population areas
- Mainly inactive
- Professionally low qualified
- Earn less than 750 € / month
- Do not use computers or internet
- Knows no foreign languages
- Do not have reading habits of books or newspapers

TYPICAL PROFILE OF THE PEOPLE WHO **DO NOT** PARTICIPATE IN LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Where can we find these
NON-participants?



Formal educational
institutions?

Non- Formal educational
institutions?

The importance of
Community

BRIEF NOTES ON **COMMUNITY**

- The ambivalent character of community (accommodating related but contradictory meanings)
- Community as a space of conflict more than a space of consensus
- Community as a symbolic space - symbolic contradictory senses of belonging

BRIEF NOTES ON **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The burst of Portuguese CD experiences, under popular education influence, with the following characteristics:

- Focused on the joint work of CSO and (deprived) communities
- Aiming to improve quality of life, organisation, etc. , of collectives
- Shared construction of "needs"
- Education and learning
- People's participation, processes control, autonomy and responsibility

THE IMPORTANCE OF... **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** FOR OLDER CITIZENS

- Older adults in their natural place and space;
- The opportunity to address problems and desires of the elderly;
- The opportunity for adult adults to keep their natural bonds to people with various ages;
- To strengthen the social networks that naturally degrade with age – but that provide friendship, social support, etc.
- It means the possibility for older adults to have a Freirian voice.

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

- Portuguese population: about 10 million
- Population 65+ = 2,023 million (19%)
- In the last decade, the number of older citizens has increased about 19% (more the 80+)
- Majority - women
- National Ageing Index: 120,1% (the regional / local differences)

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

- Today, more than 1,2 million older people live alone or in the exclusive company of other older adults. This means:
- About 12% of total inhabitants and 60% of the elderly live **alone** (400 964) or in the **exclusive company of older citizens** (804 577), reflecting a phenomenon which dimension has increased 28% in the last decade

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

Transitions to retirement:

- Nearly a fourth (24,3%) of the citizens who left their last job or business with 50 years old or more had worked between **40 to 44** years in exchange of a salary or any other type of financial compensation, and about one fifth (20,6%) worked between **35 to 39** years

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

Institutional families:

- A set of individuals residing in a collective place in which, independently of family relationships between them, people observe a common discipline, and are "governed" by an entity external to the group
- Include mainly social support, religious and health institutions (57% of the population who live in institutional families are in social support institutions)

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

Institutional families:

- 1991 : 2 339 institutional families;
- 2001 : 3 876 (an increase of 61%);
- 2011 : 4 832 institutional families (an increase of 80%).

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

Who are the Portuguese citizens living in Institutional families? (social support institution's only)

- 80 years old or more
- widows or widowers
- 67,1% are illiterate; 30% primary school (4 years); less than 3% have more than primary school as academic qualifications.
- The elderly with an economic activity are almost non-existing.
- Very low economic level

OLDER ADULTS IN PORTUGAL: A GENERAL PORTRAIT 2011

Projections made to 2050:

- Resident population will decrease to 9.302 million (about 1 million loss);
- The number of children up to 14 years old would continue to decrease, representing a loss of 418.000 children;
- The active population (15-64 years old) will maintain a negative variation in this period, representing a loss of about 2 million people in 40 years.
- The number of persons with 65 years old or more will grow 1,1 million, reaching 31,8% of the population by 2050.
- Older adult's dependency index will increase from 26 to 58 older citizens for each 100 persons in active age.
- The ageing index will reach a national average of 243%.

DISCUSSION

- *Dispossessed* of community, or another type of invisibility...
- The elderly in community development projects
- A look into the scientific community, our choices, research funding and priorities
- Where are the older citizen's voices?
- A word to the future
- A word in behalf of my country today's situation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
