GLOBAL TRENDS 2030:
THE FUTURES OF PORTUGAL
IN AND BEYOND EUROPE
Diffusion of power in Portugal: Limits to centralization in a context of decline of state power

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1. Introduction

In this study, we try to perceive in what way the predictions to the year 2030 contained in recent prospective studies produced in Europe and in the USA are applicable to Portugal. For that purpose, we also take into account the views expressed at various conferences held at Fundação de Serralves under the subject “Global Trends 2030: Portugal’s Futures”.

The European and American studies identify the contemporary megatrends with the most social impact and try to predict how those trends will evolve up to the year 2030. One of the megatrends identified in both studies concerns the so-called “diffusion of power”, meaning the gradual erosion of the power of States and the assumption of power by non-state actors.

1 The studies are the ones produced by the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS/ESPAS) (Global trends 2030 - Citizens in an interconnected and polycentric world) and by the National Intelligence Council (NIC) (Global trends 2030 – Alternative Worlds).

2 Serralves Conferences “Tendências Globais 2030: Os Futuros de Portugal” (Global Trends 2030: Portugal’s Futures) took place from September 28, 2015 to February 11, 2016. Coordinated by Álvaro Vasconcelos, they aimed at “identifying and discussing global megatrends in the fields of politics, economy, technology and safety, as well as their impact in the future of the Portuguese people and their democracy”.

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