1.0 | Unemployment in Portugal

Unemployment has risen drastically since 2010

Labour Unions generally do not represent the unemployed as they do not have a salary
1.1 | Mom, I’m Unemployed

Being unemployed is usually a source of shame, poverty, frustration and social exclusion.

However it is an integral part of the economic system and its growth is a part of the gov.’s attempt to ‘raise productivity’ - *predictable* and *predicted* *(Memorandum)*
1.2 | ‘Real’ Structural Unemployment

The very way in which the term is defined shifts the blame onto the unemployed and away from the system.

However we know full well that the existence of a large ‘reserve army of labour’ is necessary for the lowering of wages and the erosion of worker’s rights.
1.3 | Ready, Steady, Go Look for a Job

Image by Duarte Guerreiro
1.4 | The ‘Right to Work’

TÍTULO III
Direitos e deveres económicos, sociais e culturais
CAPÍTULO I
Direitos e deveres económicos
Artigo 58.º
(Direito ao trabalho)

1. Todos têm direito ao trabalho.

2. Para assegurar o direito ao trabalho, incumbe ao Estado promover:

   a) A execução de políticas de pleno emprego;

   b) A igualdade de oportunidades na escolha da profissão ou gênero de trabalho e condições para que não seja vedado ou limitado, em função do sexo, o acesso a quaisquer cargos, trabalho ou categorias profissionais;

   c) A formação cultural e técnica e a valorização profissional dos trabalhadores.
2.0 | Genesis

The Unemployed Movement started with a small meeting of young unemployed people wanting to get organized and intent on fighting back.

We are mostly young and fully radical.
2.1 | Early Political Repression

4 Members of MSE were handing out leaflets in an Employment Center (IEFP)

One of them was identified by the police on the spot and will be tried soon for organizing an ‘illegal protest’
2.2 | Getting Noticed

A PSP spokeswoman infamously stated that ‘2 people already make up a protest’

During Salazar’s fascist regime, it took 3 people…

In response, some days later, we returned with 50 people and the police were most kind and welcoming
2.3 | IEFP - The Unemployment Centers

IEFP serves as means to police unemployed people - they have to present themselves periodically in order to continue receiving unemployment benefits.

Its capacity to find work for those registered is minimal, not to say virtually non-existent.
### 2.4 | The Vera Pereira System

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<tr>
<th>Formação Profissional</th>
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<tr>
<td>Formação Profissional Obrigatória: Não Relevante</td>
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<th>Horário Trabalho</th>
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<td>Horário: 9h-13h/14h-17h - (35h Semanais)</td>
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<td>Descanso Semanal: Sábado e Domingo</td>
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<th>Condições</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medida Estímulo 2012: Esta oferta obriga a que o candidato esteja inscrito, como desempregado no Centro de Emprego, por mais de seis meses consecutivos.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conhecimentos Profissionais: Conhecimentos inerentes à profissão de Educadora de Infância</td>
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<td>Outros Conhecimentos: <strong>SÓ A ADMITIR A VERA PEREIRA</strong></td>
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<th>Outros Dados</th>
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<td>Tipo de Contrato Oferecido: A Termo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conhecimentos Inerentes: <strong>SÓ A ADMITIR A VERA PEREIRA</strong></td>
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2.5 | The Reactivation of MTD

MTD (Movimento de Trabalhadores Desempregados) had been dormant (CGTP sleeper cell?) for years and was reactivated on the 1st of August 2012. It organized a nationwide protest from the 5th to the 13th of October 2012 and has since been virtually inactive.
3.0 | Eroding Local Administration

The attempt to organize local assemblies represents a paradox.

On one side, the need for local representation is high. However, gathering the contingent that is needed for the necessary pressure to be applied emerges as a tough challenge.
4.0 | Success

One of the only Social Movement in Portugal with public accounts

We are one of the few political groups listed as being part of the ‘violent left-wing’ by Pacheco Pereira, and in the current political climate slander and pressure is equivalent to an official recognition of a job well done

Highly consistent presence on the streets - we are not many but we are loud and make our presence felt
4.1 | Awareness and Deconstruction

We write articles, give interviews, try to bother the media and the government as much as possible by raising awareness on the wasted economic potential.
4.2 | Street Presence

The 30th of June protest was organized in close cooperation with the 15O Platform, it was very small and marked a shifting point in our strategy and general stance.
4.2 | Street Presence

The Unemployed Movement | Organizing the Urban Unemployed in Lisbon | Success, Failure and Future Prospects
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The Unemployed Movement | Organizing the Urban Unemployed in Lisbon | Success, Failure and Future Prospects
The Unemployed Movement | Organizing the Urban Unemployed in Lisbon | Success, Failure and Future Prospects

Este governo é ilegal. Não foi este programa eleitoral em que os cidadãos votaram!
4.2 | Street Presence

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The Unemployed Movement | Organizing the Urban Unemployed in Lisbon | Success, Failure and Future Prospects
4.3 | The Siege

The ‘Siege’ was an open protest, with open meetings, open to collective subscriptions, the last of its kind in Lisbon since

It also marked a transition- it was second installment of violence near the parliament
4.4 | Worker Solidarity

The Unemployed Movement | Organizing the Urban Unemployed in Lisbon | Success, Failure and Future Prospects
4.5 Dock Workers

The Dock Workers were in need of a link with the Social Movements and experience in organizing protests.

Extremely violent protest.

Meanwhile their strike ended and it was widely considered as representing a defeat.
The first thing worthy of mention that the Minister of the Interior said was that the violence was to blame on a protest that was not the CGTP one- meanwhile an attempt was made to organize a collective answer to fight against police repression and the criminalization of protesting in general- it failed
5.0 | Failure

The short time in which MSE has been active has been marked with some deal of success

But mostly there is much room for improvement and many lessons learnt

The biggest failure has been the striking difficulty in reaching out to unemployed people- mainly the older generation as well as the poorer, more geographically and socially peripheral urban unemployed
6.0 | Lessons Learnt

It is extremely difficult to organize the urban unemployed.

Often poor, live on the periphery and relatively politically passive and under ‘house arrest’

We have no government funding and refuse to receive contributions from political parties

We have struggled to offer real alternatives
6.1 | Hypotheses

The term ‘unemployed’ has negative connotations

Many people who are unemployed don’t see themselves as being so, or at least they do not identify or want to be associated with the connotations associated with the term

Widespread demobilization and political demotivation

Too much effort spent in internal and external conflict
7.0 | Future Prospects

The Day of Resistance (9th of March 2013) follows the pattern of worker solidarity rather than unemployed syndicalism.

Organizing the urban unemployed in their condition of urban unemployed will be one of the keys for the upgrading and radicalization of the social urban struggles of the 21st century.

The urban unemployed should be at the forefront.
8.0 | Contact Details

Movimento Sem Emprego

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