

ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

DUBROVNIK, 3 – 5 APRIL 2018

By Joao Caraca

SHORT REPORT

The Round Table -- organized by the World Academy of Art and Science and the World University Consortium -- was hosted by the Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik.

Building on previous workshops, namely “Social Power” in November 2016, held also in Dubrovnik, its main motivations were the perception and the concern that a number of recent trends are weakening democracy even in many bastions of liberal tradition.

Disenchantment with the political institutions and deteriorating social services, together with increasing labor precarity, undermine public trust. On the other side, interconnectivity, complexity and uncertainty promote challenges of unprecedented nature and impact.

A group of 40 participants -- scholars, specialists, university graduate students -- engaged in formidable debates about the outcomes of recent evolutions of morals, technologies, arts and belief systems. Valuable insights were shared regarding the need to understand complex multidimensional global phenomena so that practical actions can be envisaged towards supporting, securing and sustaining the aspirations of humanity.

Prospects of a better future were also explored in the context of global community governance. The liberty to create more inequality was pronounced a dreadful and dangerous path. The future of the world and of popular democratic values was seen by the participants to be played in the field of equality. The group felt that the techno-scientific and the digital revolutions that the 20th century endowed us require unmistakably and simultaneously a deep cultural transformation of the peoples and minds on our planet.