

The new Teenage – Europe

Manuscript **My Opinion about work perspectives** **RTP, Portugal**

Presenter: Are the differences between the young people in the present and the future member states as big as somebody thinks? We let our colleagues around Europe ask young people on the street on various subjects. In this item, our colleagues in Portugal ask some youngsters about their opinion of how job-situation will be in the future in Portugal

Participants:

Names are written in the translation

Crew:

Duration: 3'57

Translation

My Opinion about work perspectives RTP, Portugal

0'00

Talking about the professional expectations of Portuguese youths almost always involves talking about the socio-economic environment in which they live. Even if one avoids any determinism, the only exceptions (and these do exist) are exactly just that. Not taking into account, for the moment, the conditions for access into the labour market, one has to realise that the youth's current environment plays an important role. It is what opens and closes doors for them, it influences their decisions, their opportunities and even the way they look at the future.

Although some see the future as something distant, others have set their sights from early on. Ricardo is one such person ...

0'37

Ricardo Santos – 17 years old – 1st year Law student

- "I come from a family of lawyers, so ... it was sort of a choice that was implanted by my parents. I've always been free to choose, but I ended up choosing Law".
- When did you choose to go into Law?
- "Ever since I was little I would listen to my parents talking to their friends and I found the stories they told about the law courts very interesting. But I suppose I started thinking seriously about it when I was in 8th grade, at around 13 or 14 years old."

The other Ricardo has had a few difficulties at school. He's in 9th grade and says he wants to go as far as he can. But it is likely that the profession he has chosen to aim for will not require him to study hard.

1'17

Ricardo Filipe – 16 years old – 9th grader

- "I want to be a football player."
- Are your grades good enough for that?
- *"Good grades, ha."*
- "I have to be able to play well .. we'll see how it goes."
- What if you don't make it?
- "That's all I want to do. I don't have any other plans."

Although Mário's family has a tight budget, his dreams are a lot closer to heaven

1'42

Mário Filipe – 16 years old – 10th grader

- "I'd like to be an astronomer, but I don't know if I will be. I don't think my grades are good enough, but I'm still going to try"

Whether they are dreamers or realists, Portuguese youths don't seem to lose any sleep thinking about their professional future ... whether this is because they simply don't think about it or because they have self-confidence, the general feeling is one of optimism regarding what the future holds for them and difficulties are always glossed over.

2'09 Ricardo Santos

- "I shouldn't have any trouble. Since I come from a family of lawyers, I would be a hypocrite to say I'll have a hard time, because I won't, right?"

2'17

Salomé Neves – 17 years old – 1st year Law student

- "Everything's going as well as I expected. I'm a freshman, we have great colleagues ... As for the future, I hope it's promising."

And whether or not the professional future is within their reach is of little importance. What matters is personal fulfillment, which is almost always linked to money.

2'42

Mário Filipe and Ricardo Filipe

- *"Both. I would feel fulfilled by being an astronomer, but I'd also like to earn well. It would be fulfilling in both ways. In his case too, if he becomes a football player ..."*
- *"I like playing football, but I also like earning money."*

2'55

Ricardo Santos

- "Of course the money aspect is important, but I couldn't work against my will!"

When they look beyond the borders, Portuguese youths do not see The Land of Plenty, although they do know, or assume, that the conditions and opportunities of other European youths are considerably more tempting. Since this is a land of emigrants, it would be impossible not to feel that way. But, with the exception of the sport of kings, where the European market is the dominant one, curiously enough, the first country that comes to mind isn't in Europe...

3'27

Mário Filipe

- "There are other opportunities there ... and they earn more. But that's not the only thing. There are also better openings for astronomy. I'd like to be in the United States, or somewhere like that."

3'38

Salomé Neves

- "In the United States ... oh, in Europe ... apart from the United States, there's England, mainly. Those are good countries."

Like all teenagers, Portuguese youths have high-flying ambitions. They just hope the country can measure up to the challenge.