

## THE IMPLOSION OF CONFIDENCE - THE OPENING OF FRONTIERS TOWARDS POPULISM AND NATIONALISM

**Lecturer PhD. Radu GHEORGHE,**  
Athenaeum University of Bucharest  
e-mail : gheorghe\_radu@yahoo.com  
radu.gheorghe@univath.ro

### **Abstract**

*„We entered a chaotic period of transformation of the system of the world which we belong. The result is unpredictable”<sup>1</sup>, specify Immanuel Wallerstein in the „The decline of American power - United States in a world of chaos”, published in 2003, which has appeared in Romania in 2005, at Incitatus Éditions. Renowned historian and sociologist warned more than a decade ago that „after five hundred years of existence, the world capitalist system stands for the first time in a real systemic crisis” and the society seen from a global perspective, lies „in an age of transition”. Transition whose final station is unsafe. In the sense that „all these for the first time in five hundred years”, even if „there is a real prospect for fundamental change, which could be progressive”, there's no „must be”<sup>2</sup>.*

*In a somewhat related note, David Korten emphasize in 2007 the following: „In 1995, I noticed in the prologue of the book ”When corporations lead the world”, everywhere I went, finding among the common people, an almost universal opinion, that institutions which they depended were untrustworthy”<sup>3</sup>.*

*Even though Wallerstein hypothesis may be questionable yet (according to Professor as a result of the current crisis the capitalist structural system will cease to exist) or Korten fears can still be interpreted in a subjective exaggerations key (Korten sees a possible incapacity of institutes to provide in the future specific means for solving social conflict), last data confidence*

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<sup>1</sup> Wallerstein, Immanuel, 2005, *The decline of American power-United States in a world of chaos*, Incitatus Publishing House, Bucharest, pag. 78

<sup>2</sup> Wallerstein, Immanuel, 2005, *The decline of American power-United States in a world of chaos*, Incitatus Publishing House, Bucharest, pag. 199

<sup>3</sup> Korten, David C., 2007, *The great turning. From Empire to community land*, Antet Publishing House, Bucharest, pag. 12

*Barometer Edelman<sup>1</sup> presented this year earlier open a perspective which should reflect carefully. For the first time, globally, we are found impressive decreases levels of trust in four fundamental institutions: government, business, the media and NGOs. Furthermore, we can add the lowest rate the credibility of globally CEO's so far.*

*What we know for sure is that the performance of the institutions depends on their fundamental background of social, economic and cultural. There is also a proportionately report between confidence and the likelihood of cooperation. In that the last is favoured under conditions in which the rules are based on the social trust*

*We know also that the formal institutions influencing policy and practice governance<sup>2</sup>. From this latter perspective, that will be the implications of the crisis of globally confidence? We can expect in the future, in certain States, to witness an escalation of populist movements fueled by a lack of trust in the system and fears of economic and social?*

*Winning the presidential election by Donald Trump, Brexit, and the failure of the referendum in Italy in this year's open discussion of coupling of the populations already lack of trust in the current global system.*

*We talk about a border in motion or just about an implosion of confidence, a spurt of tension of the distrust that will be systemically readjusted in years to come?*

**Keywords:** barometer, business, corruption, globalization, immigration, implosion, innovation, institution, trust, media, nationalism, populism, technological change, social values

**JEL Classification:** Z10, Z13, Z18, R58

#### 1. **Populism - fear, xenophobia, the failure of traditional political parties**

Explanatory dictionary of the Romanian language describes a populism as a socio-political stance, often a conjectural or demagogic, that is aimed at winning popular sympathy. Sympathy that can be won

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<sup>1</sup> The confidence barometer Edelman 2017 is the seventeenth of trust and credibility. The study was conducted by the research company Edelman Intelligence and consisted in an interview online for 25 minutes, held between October 13 and November 16, 2016. 33.000 respondents participated in the survey. For selecting the public informed in 28 countries have used the following criteria: age 25-64 years old, educated, upper income limit for age and their country, tracking at least weekly business news or General, concern for public policy that we are pursuing in the media several times a week.

<sup>2</sup> Putnam, Robert D., 2001, *How does democracy*, Polirom Publishing House, Iași, pag. 193-203

politically not the few times building to satisfy the wishes of citizens routes, even to the detriment of their interests.

An interesting definition of populism done by Cas Mudde in his “Populist radical right parties in Europe”.<sup>1</sup>

According to Mudde, concept itself is merely a 'host' ideology ('host ideology') in which right-wing populism (a form of nationalism) or left-wing populism (a form of socialism) operates at maximum climate socio-economic weaknesses and political community (State) at a time. In other words, make the progeny of the dynamics of some distrust put in motion fundamental changes in the paradigms of interpretation of societal and political conventions.

From the perspective of political philosophy that you espouse, populism cannot be positioned either to the left or right spreading out the ideological parties. He probes term in the social tissue weaknesses and institutes where the level of productivity of social exchanges is strongly influenced by the negative perception of individuals about how things work in community.

Interpretat în cheie politică, nu sunt puțini specialiștii care fac o distincție foarte clară între populist și demagog. În sensul că, dacă pentru ultimul neîndeplinirea politică a promisiunilor asumate îl păstrează cumva în limitele unei filosofii sistemice din care oricum nu intenționează să iasă (sistem politic căruia de altminteri îi aparține, își asumă apriori înșelarea opiniei publice prin promisiuni mincinoase), pentru politicianul populist nu în puține dintre cazuri lucrurile stau cu totul altfel. Pentru acesta frontiera filosofiei sistemului politic căruia îi aparține este interpretată doar ca o gemandură peste care se așteaptă să înoate într-o zi împins de forța unui curent popular conjunctural așteptat, al cărui reprezentant îndreptățit nu va întârzia să se considere.

Played in political key, there are very few experts who make a very clear distinction between populist and demagogue. In the sense that if for the last failure to comply with policy promises keep it within a systemic philosophy from that anyway does not want to leave (political system which otherwise belongs to, assume the public deception by lying promises), for populist politician not in few cases things are with everything else. For this the frontier of the political philosophy system whose belongs is interpreted as a „border” who is expected to swim one day over pushed the force of an expected popular term, whose representative will not delay the effect has to be considered.

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<sup>1</sup> Cas, Mudde, “*Populist radical right parties in Europe*”, Cambridge University Press, 2009

What is interesting, the emergence and existence of populist politician depends on the fundamental right of existence of the mechanisms of democracy, because it needs the entire architecture of the democratic network in order to make known the vision. Vision that not in few cases can be modelled even a sense of undeniable sincerity, confidence in the values we represent.

Basically, it is the antechamber where the populist person is separated from the demagogue. No policy lie represents the major danger, but on the contrary, honesty, authenticity has made possible its belief. Beliefs that, if offered the chance, make populist person able to articulate and implement public policy, which assessed superficially, can have disastrous long-term consequences even for activists or voters who brought him to the forefront of the political scene plane.

As specify and Professor Andrei Cornea, the great problem for populist is right honesty, which builds its way through a 'moral' shall enter into the formulation of a great 'bad'.<sup>1</sup>

In other words, disguising the 'public good' of some temporary adverse faiths with consequences for society, which are contextual connected to a meteoric film of a social history whose needed development populist person even think.

There is no boiling point or a point to establish with precision the perimeter which validate the entry into the play area of the populism. There are however certain frontiers beyond of which, once passed, certainly he can feed it the ideology.

One of these borders is institutional distrust. That is probably a pennant altitude, an Everest who once reached, can power multiple changes in interpreting the paradigms from inside the of the social worlds.

Edelman trust Barometer data from 2017 should worry in this regard just by lowering the levels of trust at the same time the most important global institutions.

From this perspective, we are on the threshold of a fundamental paradigm change possible? What are the dates that we should either from the perspective of a possible endorsement of the teacher's Wallerstein hypothesis, which put in discussion even possible entry into the crisis of the current world system?

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://revista22online.ro/70251052/populismul-i-demagogia.html>

## 2. The likely implications of the crisis of confidence in global level

Let's turn the main four institutions whose level of distrust invite to a rigorous analysis in the light of possible developments with unintended globally consequences<sup>1</sup>:

- Trust in all four institutions is in declines (two of four institutions distrusted: media and government).

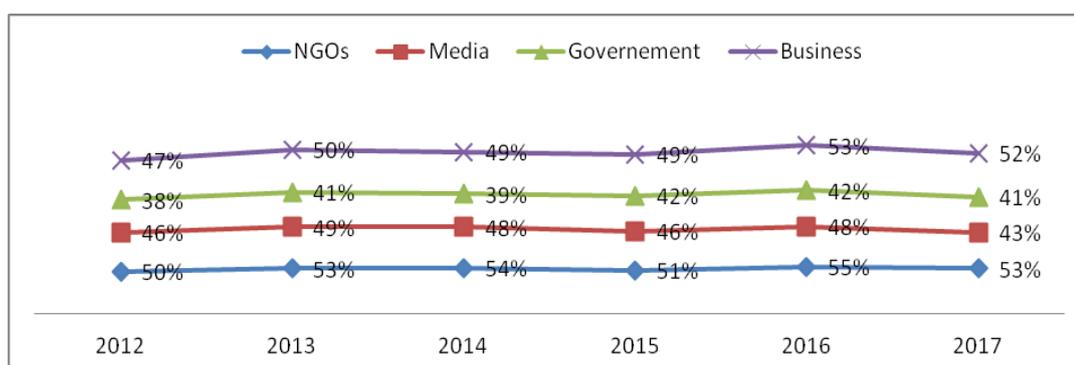


Fig. 1 – Percent trust in the four institutions: 2012-2017

- We notice a world of distrust – trust declines in 21 of 28 countries (2 in 3 countries are now distrusters);
- At this point, trust in Media plunges to all-time lows (distrusted in 85% of countries);
- Also, trust in Government further is evaporates (distrusted in 75% of countries, declines in 14 countries);
- We also notice that NGOs less trusted than business in 11 countries (distrusted in 8 countries, declines in 21 countries);
- Also, business is on the brink of distrust (distrusted in 13 countries, declines in 18 countries);
- And which greatly worries - credibility of leadership is in crisis (CEOs 37% credible, Government officials 29% credible);
  - o All-time low for CEOs credibility – CEOs not credible in 23 countries, declines in all 28 countries;
- At question: How true is this for you?
  - o Sense of injustice,
  - o Lack of hope,
  - o Lack of confidence,
  - o Desire for change,

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.edelman.com/global-results/>

Majority believe the system is failing them:

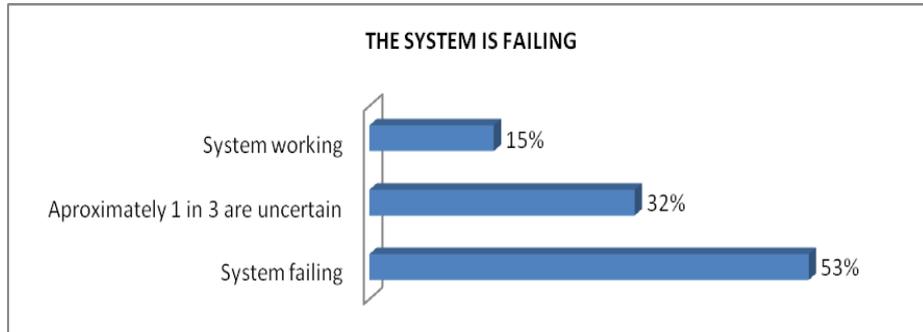


Fig.2 – Without trust, belief in the system fails

- Even those at the top are disillusioned:

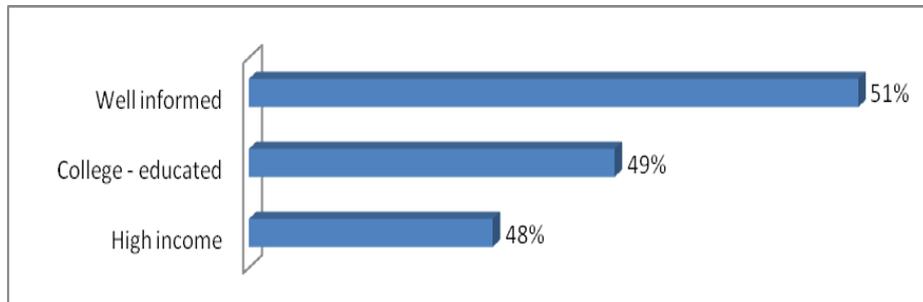


Fig.3 – Percent who believe the system not working

- 1 in 2 countries have lost faith in the system (systemic loss of faith restricted to western-style democracies);
- Concerns have become fears:

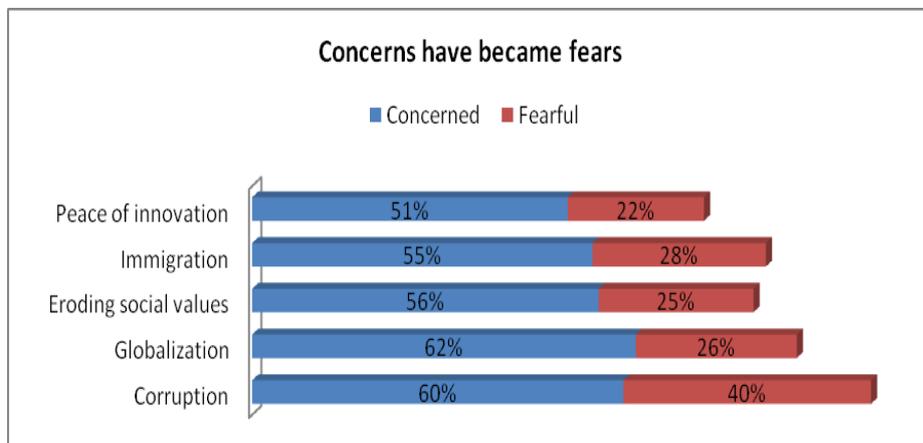


Fig.4 – Concerns have become fears

- Fears further erode belief in the system:

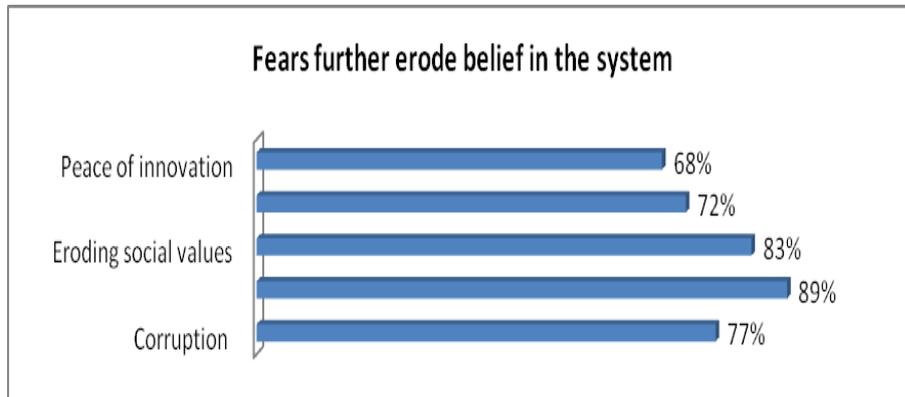


Fig.5 – Percent of respondents with various fears who also believe the system has failed them

- Respondents favors search engines (59%) at the expense of journalists editors (41%), which means they are 4 x more likely to ignore information that supports a position they do not believe

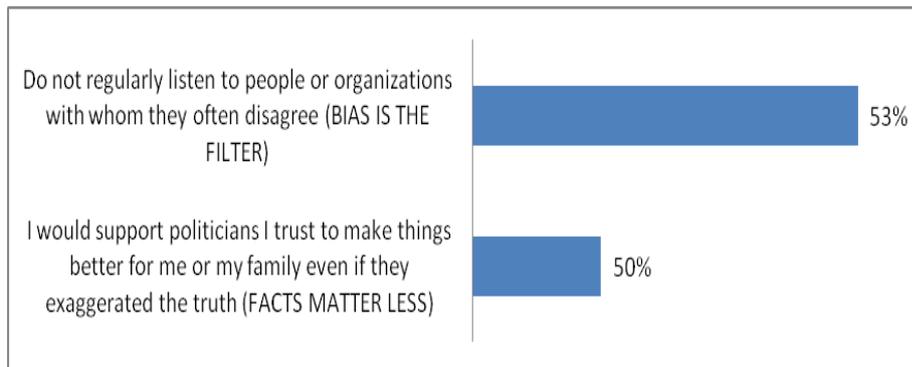


Fig.6 – The echo chamber in action

- Here is the reliable sources of information (traditional media down 5 point /owned media now as trusted as media as an institution):

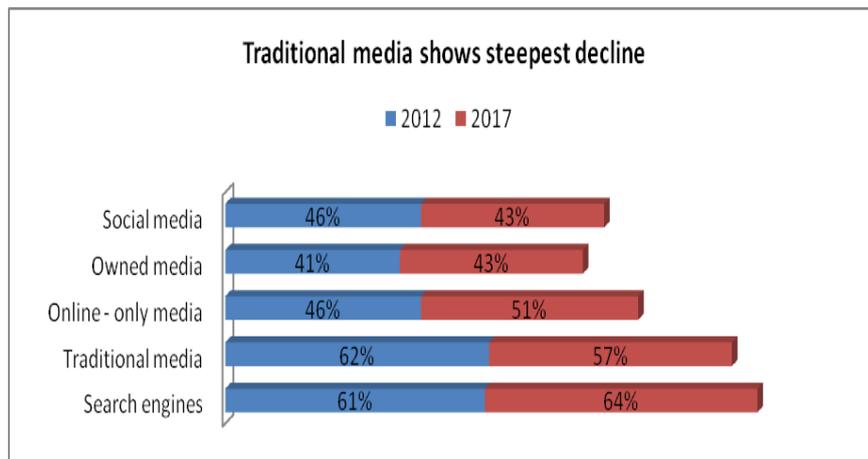


Fig.7 – Percent trust in each source for general news and information

- Edelman barometer shows that:
  - o Peers now as credible as technical or academic expert,
  - o CEO credibility decreased the most, dropping to all-time low (37%),
  - o A person like yourself now tied for most credible spokesperson.
  
- In business:
  - o 53% appreciate that the pace of change in business and industry is too fast,
  - o 50% appreciate that globalization taking us in the wrong direction,
  - o Business plays an important role in stoking societal fears.

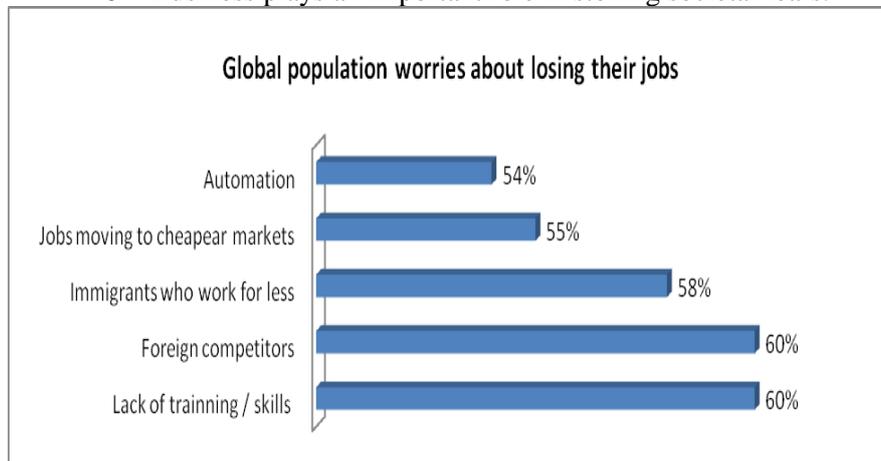


Fig.8 – Global population worries about losing their jobs

- They are support for anti-business policies:

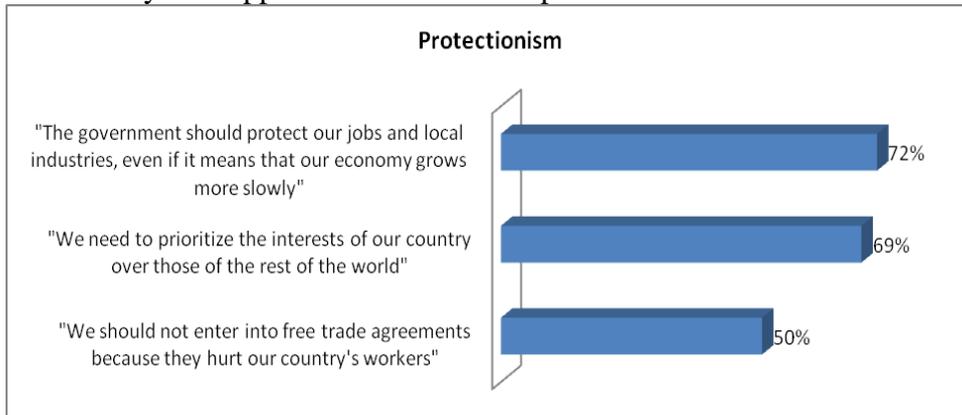


Fig.9 – Support for anti-business policies

- 82% agree that the pharmaceutical industry needs more regulation;
- 70% agree that policy makers should taxes foods that negatively impact health;
- 53% do not agree that financial market reform have increased economic stability;
- 75% agree that a company can take specific action that both increase profits and improve the economic and social condition in the community where it operates;
- Business in the most trusted among the 1 in 3 who are uncertain about the system.

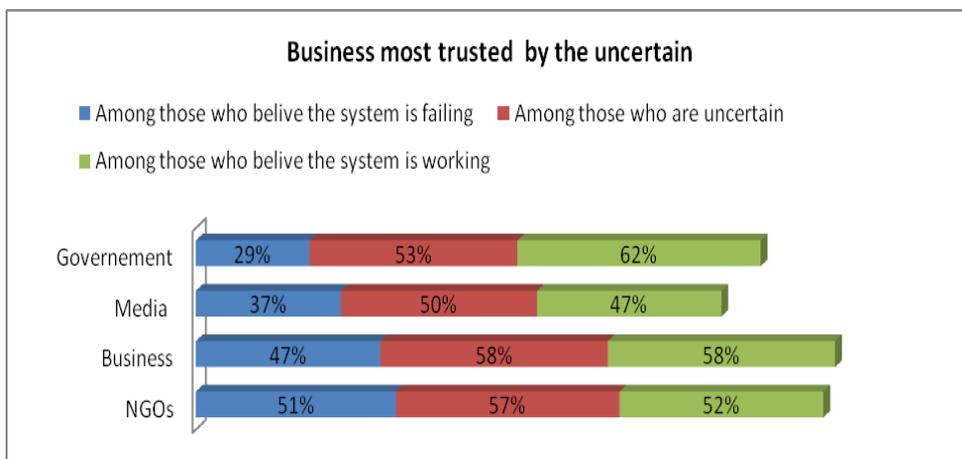


Fig.10 – Business most trusted by the uncertain

- When the system is failing, companies must do more:

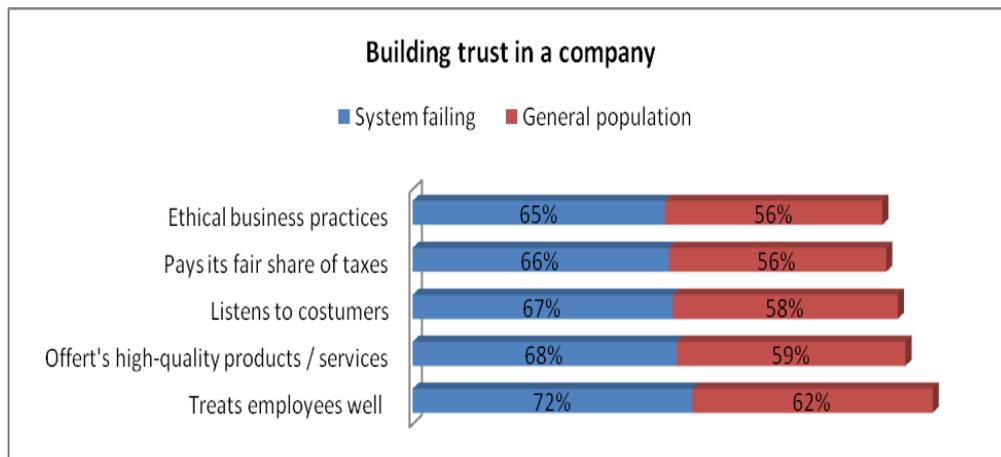


Fig.11 – Percent who rate each attribute is important in building trust in a company.

### Conclusions:

- Over 53% of respondents were disappointed by the current global system and this state of mind should be interpreted in a key of a major distrust in the future;
- What seems interesting is that including the elites (population with a high index of human capital) appreciates that the current global system failed;
- Generally a consistent disappointment bearing the imprint of faith in social inequity on which the global system has generated and maintain year after year;
- The distance between the audience of the informed population and the rest of the population reached 15%, values being much higher in the US (21%), United Kingdom (19%) and France (18%), all three already suffering major political changes in the last year;
- For the first time the overall pace of innovation fear (22% considered that it was too big), calling into question the nature of the public good brought of technological revolutions;
- Distrust of authority, calling into question the legitimacy of institutions heavily eroded (a normal individual is equally credible as a source of information about a company with a specialist or expert, but much more believable than a CEO or Government official);
- The high level of distrust can trigger fundamental changes in the operating mechanisms of the present modern world system;
- Moreover, amid supply economic and social fears (globalization, migration, corruption, erosion of social values) populist movements can finally maintain doctrines, a long time remaining in a treacherous latency;

- As long as the present perception on the level of institutional performance and effectiveness generates rather fears, it is very difficult to maintain the cohesion of a community;
- In the discussion being even global community risk may be very large.

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