



Dear Teresa, Jacqueline, Isabel, et.al.

I am taking a five day holiday, recuperating from a bout with malaria - and find one of the most relaxing things to do is muse about politics. I am assuming you all are still involved - yes?

I will not get into the obvious problem of a coalition on the left because I am sure that you all have/are discussing that continually - since it is the major problem.

One major question I have for you is: What is the percentage of votantes inscritos to those who could vote but did not inscritos? This should be looked at in each concelhos. Is there another change before October for those who have not inscritos to do so? I think this is important in some districts. (this mixing of English and Portuguese sounds very funny to me - and you all are probably laughing - but I want to impress you! No, mainly I do not know if the English words fit your words exactly - okay?)

I have been going through the results of the elections (through the compliments of Jeremias). Now, again, all of this you have probably gone over and thus what I write will be over-simplified - and since I know nothing about the politics - I am only going through the results mathematically.

It seems to me that important districts to look at are de Faro, Portalegre, Porto, and Santarem (I will also write about Coimbra).

1. Distrito de Faro. Why did the left lose? There was a rather low level of turn out to voting. Was it a change in the campaign? Was it ideological? Was it bad organization?

On the concelhos level, what I compared was the lower percentage of voters, to the vulnerable - close difference between parties and high population.

For example in Faro:

Key concelhos to work on would be:

Olhão (low % - 82.8) - high population and the AD lost but it could have lost by a higher percentage.

Tavira - same reasons

Lages

Loule - perhaps

But not Albufeira - AD has too much support and not Alcouti, Castro Marim and S. Bras Alportel even though good support on left and low voter turnout, the population is so low that it would take huge organisation with low results.

2. Portalegre. An extra seat could have been won there. Even by taking the concelhos with the low population and low turn out (Gaviae, Nisa, Ponte de Sor) - if you had gotten even 75% of the voters who did not vote out and to vote for one party an extra seat would have been won. For example, if the PS would have gotten that 75% (or 3000 voters who did not vote) their percentage would have been 32.7% instead of 29.7% and thus PS would have had the extra deputados.

3. Porto. Important because of high population - yes I know, the north is conservative - but not that much in Porto? Taking the lowest concelhos of % of voters: Matosinhos, Gondomar, Valongo, Maia, Baião - it would seem important to do political education in those concelhos now.

4. Santarem. Though this district had a high voter turnout, a number of concelhos could have changed the percentage alot. For example, if in Abrantes Concelhos 5000 voters had voted PS (that is 75% of the people who did not vote) - the PS percentage would have changed from 28.8% to 39.5%! A number of other Concelhos to look at are: Almeirim, Chamusca, Salvat. Magos, and Torres Novas. Again political education there.

5. Coimbra. Understandable why to work in that area - high

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population and low percentage of voters who voted. Concelhos that have high potential: Figueira Foz (a beautiful area - lovely beaches, etc.), Montemor-o-Velho, Soure, and Condeixa-a-Nova and Lousa. But, even if the non-voters which were about 18,000 people in those concelhos did vote for one party - the percentage change would not have been significant. For example if all those 18,000 people voted PS, PS would have gotten 38% instead of 35% and the AD would have gotten 42.6% instead of 44.7%. It would not have won the extra deputados.

6. Lisboa. Key concelhos Loures, Amadora, Vila Franca Xira, Alenquer, Azambuja. In Torres Vedra - getting the non-voters of 5556 to vote for example PS, it changed PS percentage from 29.6% to 37.3%. It could help.

The joy of this exercise is that one does not get into heated ideological debates, one can play with a calculator, and because there is little tension created because one is only working with numbers, it is good for team building!

Anyway, we can go through more of this in April. But I do think two things are important - the continuing of the political education - but in key concelhos - and looking at which concelhos has the lowest votantes imoritos and getting ~~campaigns~~ campaigns in the correct concelhos for those people to vote (concelhos that lean to the left). You have a small enough country - you can do it!

On another point - Teresa. How are you enjoying my legal battle with Australia and now Germany? (re. Kenya having a poll vote?) I am enjoying the intellectual exercise alot. I plan to ~~reply~~ reply - but basically it is the different between organisation and movement - law and structures verses poetry and dance.

I hope you are all well. Write when you can. Do you think I am absolutely crazy - or just partially. Blame it on the malaria if you think I am!

be well and much love,

Jack

