# Policies for Inclusion, Cohesion and Welfare

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to analyse the public policies oriented towards the protection from the risks linked to old age through the welfare system, and the promotion of social inclusion and cohesion through social-welfare and labour policies. In particular, the analysis will take into account the Italian scenario, with a focus on its economic and social inequalities, the challenges of the most vulnerable sections of the population (especially in terms of labour market), and the management of the welfare system from the point of view of sustainability and suitability.

At the end of the course, students will be able to read the main indicators of inequality, and master the key aspects of the policies mentioned above: strategies, intervention measures, and recent reforms. The course aims to deepen students’ understanding of the redistributive function -among citizens- operated by the State through policies for inclusion, cohesion and social security.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will introduce the role played by public policies as a tool for the redistribution of resources, protection, and opportunities, with a focus on some fundamental issues: citizenship rights, the social exclusion-inclusion dialectic, the links of solidarity, and the definition of social cohesion. Furthermore, it will analyse the concepts of inequality and poverty, and their measurement.

In particular, the course will explore the following topics, divided into two different modules:

**Module 1** (*Prof. Cerniglia*):

1. Inequalities and economic poverty: the study of inequalities and poverty is introduced starting from some methodological and definition aspects. The module will examine some public spending and collection tools and will discuss interventions in the area of social policies, in particular to reduce inequalities and fight poverty. On the topic of reducing inequalities, the module will take into consideration social policies in the context of the European Union and some aspects of cohesion and regional policies.

2. Welfare policies: the protection of the population from the risks linked to old age. A short historical introduction of the Italian welfare system, the reforms, the expenditure trends in long-term projections, and a comparison with other EU countries.

**Module 2** (*Prof. Lodigiani*):

3. The dialectic between assistance and activation: the course will analyse the importance of work as a lever for economic-social inclusion and cohesion and the paradox of cheap labour; it will analyse the interconnection between social and labour policies in the European framework of the active welfare state, and its evolution into the Social Investment welfare state.

4. The policies for the protection from the risks linked to poverty and social exclusion, and labour policies: the course will introduce the most relevant social assistance measures and the measures adopted to promote integration in the labour market – with a focus on the Italian situation in the European scenario –, highlighting the intersections emerging between two categories of policies that are traditionally kept separate. The course will examine how the *Reddito di cittadinanza* (government basic income) works and its reform proposal.

5. The implementation of policies: the course will analyse the role of territorial, social and employment services in the implementation of policies in the territories as well as the forms of collaboration between different types of services and the role, within the services themselves, of street-level bureaucrats.

***READING LIST***

**Module 1**

M. Baldini, S. Toso *Diseguaglianza, povertà e politiche pubbliche*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009, chapters I-IV.

P. Bosi (edited by) *Corso di Scienza delle Finanze*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2023 (last edition) chapter VIII part 2 (Le pensioni) and part 4 (L’assistenza)

**Module 2**

A.Ciarini, *Politiche di welfare e investimenti sociali*, Il Mulino, 2020.

M. Ferrera (edited by), *Le politiche sociali*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2019 (III edition), chapters 3 (La politica del lavoro), 5 (La politica socio-assistenziale).

Further information on the reading list will be made available during the course and on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, seminars, and practical activities. Part of the teaching material will be made available also on Blackboard

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam assesses the content of both modules and consists of a single oral test. In order to pass it, students will have to obtain at least 18 points out of 30 in both modules. The final mark, expressed in thirtieths, will result from the average between the contents of the two modules.

The final exam aims to assess analytical rigour, knowledge of the key concepts, categories, and theories explained during the course, use of appropriate terminology, and use of logical and critical thinking skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Blackboard is an online communication tool between students and the lecturers, where they can find notices, slides, lesson plans, and further teaching material for the final exam. Also non-attending students will have to check Blackboard on a regular basis. Especially for module 1, students should have a good knowledge of the key concepts of microeconomics.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.