# European Social Policy in the field of Inclusion, Families and Minors

## Prof. Rosangela Lodigiani; Prof. Marcello D’Amico

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

The course aims to offer students the required knowledge to analyse and understand the purposes, means and governance of the policies for inclusion, families and minors in Europe, on the one hand by outlining the EU guidelines in these areas and getting familiar with its implementation tools, on the other hand by comparing the policy choices made by the main European Countries, read in the light of the paradigm of the Social Investment Welfare State.

At the end of the course, students will be able to master the skills they need to analyse and understand the scopes, the tools, and the governance of the above-mentioned policies, and identify their different transpositions into the national and local dimension of the main strategic guidelines and operational instructions defined at the European level.

The participants will also be able to identify and describe the essential features and the most recent developments in Italian social policies aimed at promoting active inclusion with specific (although not exclusive) reference to families and minors.

The course is structured into two six-month modules.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1: *Inclusive growth policies and tools* (Prof. Marcello D’Amico)

The course aims to provide students with a general understanding of the values, the objectives, and the areas of intervention of the European Union contributing to the creation of a “more social Europe”. In the field of the initiatives implementing the principles of the “European pillar of social rights”, the course will present the most important policy, prescriptive, and financial tools promoting the convergence of national policies towards the inclusive growth objectives established at the European level by the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

In particular, the course will explore the following topics:

* the institutional framework and the competences of the European Union in the social field;
* the EU Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024 for an economy at the service of people (equity and sustainable competitiveness);
* the legislative (directives) and financial (EU direct and structural funds), coordination (European semester) tools of the European Union to achieve the common objectives in the social sector;
* the principles of the European pillar of social rights and their implementation for the reinforcement of policies oriented towards: active social inclusion and the fight against poverty; the promotion of gender equality, equal opportunities for all, and the fight against discrimination; the protection of children’s rights, through the Child Guarantee;
* the EU’s 2021-2027 long-term budget and the social investments for inclusion, families, and children: direct management and structural funds (FSE+);
* the planning techniques for the access to EU funding (*Project Cycle Management Guidelines* of the EU Commission).

Module 2: *Social policies in a comparative perspective* (Prof. Rosangela Lodigiani)

Module 2 is designed to get a deeper understanding of the social policies for inclusion, families and minors, by analysing the Italian case compared to the main European countries.

After describing the differences among the different European welfare systems and comparing the strategies that the main member states are adopting to respond to the new risks and social needs, the course will explore the Italian case. By focussing on families and minors, comparisons will be made both considering the social policies specifically aimed at them and the policies that indirectly affect their well-being. More specifically, the course will analyse the policies for combating poverty and social exclusion, policies for professional and family life reconciliation, policies for early childhood and dependants’ education and care.

In its preliminary stage, the course will provide the concept tools for a compared analysis of welfare.

***READING LIST***

For Module 1

M. D’amico, *Progettare in Europa. Tecniche e strumenti per l’accesso e la gestione dei finanziamenti dell’Unione europea*, Erickson.

Additional textbooks for further study

*Manuale di Diritto dell’Unione Europea. Aspetti istituzionali e Politiche dell’Unione*, Ed. Giuridiche Simone.

The European reference textbooks (treaties, directives, Commission communications) are available on the website *www.europa.eu*.

For Module 2

C. Ranci-E. Pavolini, *Le politiche di welfare,* il Mulino, Bologna, 2015.

Additional specific study material will be provided at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course combines classroom lectures with group activities and single-subject workshops on the European Union documents related to the diverse policy areas considered. The course also uses the Blackboard platform as a supplementary educational tool.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

At the end of each of the two modules there is an exam. The final mark, on a 30-point scale, is the average of the marks obtained in the two exams.

Module 1

Oral exam aimed at testing students’ understanding and command of the main elements that regulate the planning of social policies at European level (institutional framework, European and national competencies) and implementation of policies (instruments and initiatives adopted, methodological approaches). Then, the exam will test students’ understanding of the impact that policy indications and European regulations have on the local dimension of the planning and implementation of social policies.

Module 2

Oral exam aimed at assessing: students’ mastery of the basic concepts and categories related to the topic developed in the program (basic elements of comparative analysis, European welfare systems, social policies related to inclusion, families and minors): the ability to argue the specificity of the Italian case within the European framework; the ability to critically reflect on the topics indicated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Blackboard* is the online communication tool between lecturer and students. On the platform both information and notices relating to the course as well as lesson materials will be made available on the platform where students are recommended to enrol from the first lesson.

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.