UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Social Economics

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Social Economics (L4516)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	30.00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	20.00

9. ECTS Credits

6.00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor ALVARO ANTONIO CALADO AFONSO MATIAS

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To provide an historical framework of the Social Economy (SE), its principles and scope of action, alongside with its relationship with the Market, Government, and Society in general.
To develop analytical capacity on the evolution of SE, its potentialities and
limitations, as well as its framework as a future field of professional practice for students.

15. Specific Objectives

1. To identify the object of study of SE by conceptualizing it between a market-driven economy or a more centralized one, alongside with its political-organizational aspect;
2. To understand the operation of SE, the typology of organizations, fields of action, and social and financial sustainability;
3. To put into perspective lines of action and evolution for the field of SE that respond in an innovative way to the society's needs.

16. Skills to be acquired

It is intended that students are able to:
- Internalize the theoretical framework environment of SE;
- Rationalize SE' actions as well as its functions and limitations;
- To put into perspective the future of SE, in a creative and sustainable way, namely as a field of response to citizens concerns and a forum for professional action.

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17. Teaching Methodology

Theoretical-practical classes will mostly consist of oral exposition by the teacher. On average, one topic per class will be taugt and accompanied by practical complements whenever this deems appropriate. In tutorial classes students will be monitored in a more personalized way, while helping and guiding their study and clarifying relevant aspects of the theoretical-practical classes.

18. Course Unit Program

I. INTRODUCTION
1. The economy and the social sector.
2. Goverment and market failures; public goods.
3. Provision of public goods and the 3rd sector.
4. The concept of Social Economy.
5. Origins of SE, borders and the interaction with government.

II. GOVERNMENT and PUBLIC POLICIES
1. Ethics in public service.
2. Ethical dimensions Government concepts.
3. Politics as a choice.
4. Public choices at the service of ES.

III. The ROLE of the GOVERNMENT in the SOCIAL ECONOMY
1. Conceptions of Government within the scope of SE.
2. The present and the future - The need to redefine the role of the Government in social policies.
3. The Welfare State; - The public good and the social role of the Government; - The boundaries of the Government policies and the role of the 3rd sector; - The future of SE.

IV. THE PARTICULAR CASE OF SOCIAL SECURITY
1. Concept.
2. The economics of Social Security.
3. Pay-as-you-go systems and fully-funded systems.
4. Demographic trends and the long-term financing of Social Security.

19. Assessment Methods

1. Two written tests
2. Attendance, initiative and participation

20. Didactic Resources

Manuals and other materials suggested by the teacher.
Prepared slides for specific points in the program.
Previously suggested practical problems.

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21. Sustainability Objectives

This subject will be taught accordingly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and in line with the global education strategy for sustainable development goals (SDG). Its aims are fully in compliance with one of the targets of the SDG on education (SDG 4.7), which is considered a driver for the achievements of all 17 SDGs. The subject aims to empower students to make informed decisions in favour of environmental integrity, economic viability and social prosperity.

22. Keywords

Social Economy
Social values
Government
Market
3rd sector

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Mendes, Victor
Title: O Terceiro Setor, Economia Social e Solidária
Edition: 1ª Year: 2014
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Legis
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Namorado, Rui
Title: O que é a Economia Social? A Economia Social e a Constituição
Edition: 1ª Year: 2017
Local: Coimbra
Publisher: CECES. FEUC
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Pereirinha, J.
Title: Economia Social e Estado Providência
Edition: 2ª Year: 2003
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Intervenção Social
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): MATIAS, Álvaro
Title: Economia da Segurança Social
Edition: A.P.S.S. Year: 1999
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Vulgata
ISBN Code:

Author(s):
Title:
Edition: Year:
Local:
Publisher:
ISBN Code:

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'ECONOMIA SOCIAL': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor ALVARO ANTONIO CALADO AFONSO MATIAS
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