UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
SECTORAL SOCIAL POLICIES

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

SECTORAL SOCIAL POLICIES (L4522)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

3rd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

3,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To make students aware of the evolution, contexts, achievements, and contemporary challenges of the Portuguese Social Protection System as structured within the different sectors of national social policy.

15. Specific Objectives

Analyze the achievements and challenges of the welfare state and the importance of social policies in a welfare society in the light of the European Social Model.
- Know the sectors of national social policy, their principles, organization and functioning.
- Understand the levels of administration and the challenges of transferring powers to local authorities.
- Know strategies, plans, programs and measures related to Social Work intervention.
- Generate capacity for socio-political analisis

16. Skills to be acquired

- Ability to relate the evolution of social needs to the political and institutional responses.
- Understanding the current context and the challenges facing social protection systems, particularly the Social Security, Health, and Education systems.
- Knowledge of the structure and measures within various social policy sectors as essential resources for social workers' practices.
- Capacity for socio-political analysis and intervention in the prevention and resolution of social problems, and

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17. Teaching Methodology

Explanatory and participatory approach with opportunities for reflection and debate on the curriculum content, utilizing texts and materials provided to students. Practical exercises and presentations focusing on sector-specific Social Policy measures will be included.

18. Course Unit Program

I - STATE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN PORTUGAL
1.1. Reasons for a Strong Welfare State: Unfinished Achievements of a Democratic Portugal
1.2. The Sectorial Organization of Social Protection Policies in Portugal
II - PORTUGUESE SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT
2.1. The Beginnings of Social Security and the Configuration of Redistributive and Protective Functions
2.2. The basic Law and the Social Minimums Regime
2.3. The Sustainability of Social Security: Factors and Challenges
2.4. The European Social Model, Social Cohesion, and the European Pillar of Social Rights
III - PUBLIC HEALTH: A CIVILISATIONAL ADVANCE
3.1. For the Future of the NHS: Evolution, Configuration, Achievements, and Challenges in the 21st Century
3.2. The basic Law on Health and the National Health Plan 2030
IV - THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT: REDUCING INEQUALITIES
4.1. Saving Public Schools: Evolution, Configuration, Achievements, and Challenges of the Educational System in the Global World
4.2. The basic Law and Education in the Priorities of Portugal 2030 Strategy
4.3. Key Training and Employment Measures and Training and Qualification in the Portugal 2030 Strategy
V - THE FRAGILITY OF HOUSING POLICIES
5.1. The Housing Crisis: The Challenges of Sustainable Urbanization
5.2. The basic Law and the National Housing Programme 2022-2026
VI - THE INVISIBILISED LEISURE POLICIES
6.1. The National Strategy for the Promotion of Physical Activity, Health, and Well-being 2016-2025
6.2. The Case of the Escolhas Programme: Informal Sports and Art as tools of social policy for youth and local development - The social work Influence
VII - MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT: SHARING POWER AND CITIZENSHIP
7.1. Configuration of municipal government in Portugal and the Territorialization of Social Policies: The Case of Housing and Social Action and the Urgency of Recognizing Local Development Responses in the 3td sector
7.2. The Role of Social Work in Building Sustainable Well-being Alternatives: Collaborative and Co-governance Strategies in the Democratic Reinvention of the Welfare State

19. Assessment Methods

2 written tests
Oral group work based on a topic about the course program

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20. Didactic Resources

Audiovisual media (PC/Data Show/Power Point/Videos).
Recommended and complementary bibliography
Documentation available
Educational games

21. Sustainability Objectives

Social protection policies contribute to the fulfillment of SDG30 (UN). The SDGs that are most related to the contents of the curricular unit are:
1-No poverty
2-Zero Hunger
3-Quality Health
4-Quality Education
8-Decent work and economic growth
9-Sustainable cities and communities
10-Reduce inequalities
16-Peace, justice and fair institutions
17-Partnerships for the goals

22. Keywords

Social Policy
Social Security
Health
Education
Housing
Citizenship
Social Work

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Carmo, R. & Barata, A. (Coords.)		
Title:	Estado Social. De todos para todos		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2014
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Tinta da China		

Author(s):	Apelles Conceição, J. B.		
Title:	Segurança Social. Manual Prático		
Edition:	14ª	Year:	2023
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

Author(s):	Fernandes, A. C: (Coord.)		
Title:	Saúde em Portugal. Pensar o Futuro. 50 anos de democracia. 45 de SNS		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2024
Local:	Coimbra		
Publisher:	Almedina		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	OCDE		
Title:	Education at a Glance. OECD Indicators. https://doi.org/10.1787/e13bef63-en.		
Edition:		Year:	2023
Local:	Paris		
Publisher:	OCDE		

Author(s):	Instituto para as Políticas Públicas e Sociais_Iscte-Iul		
Title:	O Estado da Nação em Números (Documentação diversa) https://estadodanacao.iscte-iul.pt/		
Edition:		Year:	2024
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	IPSS_Iscte_Iul_Colabor		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora VANDA SOFIA BRAZ RAMALHO
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Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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