



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
SECTORAL SOCIAL POLICIES

Academic Year 2026/2027

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 analysis

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



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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



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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, the Social Minimums Regime, and the National Strategy for Combatting Poverty 2021?2030. The 2026?2030 Action Plan
- 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. Outcome Review.

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 3rd 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



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19. Assessment Methods

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

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
ISBN Code: 9789896712105

Author(s): Apelles Conceição, J. B.
Title: Segurança Social. Manual Prático
Edition: 14ª Year: 2023
Local: Coimbra
Publisher: Almedina
ISBN Code: 9789894015482

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
ISBN Code: 9789899160286

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): OCDE
Title: Education at a Glance 2025. OECD Indicators.
<https://doi.org/10.1787/1c0d9c79-en>
Edition: Year: 2025
Local: Paris
Publisher: OECD Publishing
ISBN Code:

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: 2026
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: IPSS_Iscte_Iul_Colabor



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