UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Elective 1 - Organizational Contexts in Social Work

Academic Year 2026/2027

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Elective 1 - Organizational Contexts in Social Work (L4530)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora CRISTINA MARIA RAMOS COELHO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To understand the integration of Social Work and its intervention methodologies within current organisational contexts, combining a conceptual perspective on organisations with a critical and empirical view of contemporary professional practice.

15. Specific Objectives

To characterise organisations as spaces of social reproduction and identify their dimensions, structures, and cultures.
To identify traditional and emerging occupational spaces, understanding the intervention particularities.
To problematise the "relative autonomy", both intellectual and technical-political, of social workers in the face of organisational limitations.
To conceptualise the practitioner as a transformative agent within human resource management.

16. Skills to be acquired

Distinguish concepts and typologies of different organisational contexts
Understand organisational ethics and social responsibility
Value teamwork and strategic leadership
Develop a strategic and critical outlook on social assessments (diagnostics) and the management of impact indicators
Recognise oneself as a worker, managing professional autonomy and mental health in response to working conditions

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17. Teaching Methodology

Lectures and theoretical presentations delivered by the lecturer;
Student presentations of coursework and projects;
Analysis of practical case studies;
Project-based learning methodology.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Organisations as Spaces of Social Reproduction
1.1. Organisational nature and typology: public, private, and social economy organisations.
1.2. The organisation as a living system: institutional culture, mission, and values, and their relationship with the professional project.
1.3. The impact of societal transformations: globalisation, precarious work, and new audiences.
2. Mapping the Occupational Spaces of Social Work
2.1. Traditional contexts and their reconfiguration: healthcare (hospitals and mental health), Social Security, and the socio-legal sector.
2.2. Emerging Contexts and New Demands: Housing, socio-environmental issues, public education, and affirmative action policies.
2.3. The Third Sector and IPSS (Private Institutions of Social Solidarity): Particularities of intervention within social solidarity institutions and local networks.
3. The Dynamics of Professional Practice
3.1. The place of Social Work within the division of labour: technical and administrative functions, and the professional's role as an agent of change.
3.2. "Relative Autonomy" in the face of institutional limits: the exercise of the ethical-political project, organisational constraints, and managerial logics.
3.3. Inter-institutional relations and Stakeholders: networks, partnerships, and dialogue with diverse interest groups.
4. Human Relations and Subjectivity at Work
4.1. Communication and ethical action in daily practice: professional secrecy and decision-making in crisis contexts.
4.2. Teamwork and leadership: integration into interdisciplinary teams and the development of team building.
4.3. Health, precariousness, and recognition: subjective impacts of intervention and the mental health of workers.

19. Assessment Methods

1 individual written tests
1 written group work and its oral presentation.
Active participation in debates
Other elements of evaluation.

20. Didactic Resources

Power point
Movies/Documentaries
Support material

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21. Sustainability Objectives

The U.C. Organizational Context in Social Work aims to contribute to sustainability in the following areas:1-Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with relevant qualifications, including technical and professional skills, for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.2-Ensure equal opportunities in the university education.3-Respect for Social and Environmental Responsibility.4-Importance of Partnerships for the Implementation of the Goals SDG 2023, UN.

22. Keywords

Organizations
professional insertion
Skills
Stakeholders

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	GARCIA, Tomás Fernández, et al		
Title:	Introducción al Trabajo Social		
Edition:	4ª	Year:	2008
Local:	Madrid		
Publisher:	Alianza Editorial		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	DAFT, Richard, L; MURPHY, Jonathan; WILLMOTT, Hugh		
Title:	Organization:theory and design		
Edition:	8 th	Year:	2003
Local:	United Kingdom		
Publisher:	United Kingdom		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	Kritz, J., Knepper, H. J., Roberts, A., Bouzan, L., Mitchell, S., Abdelrasol, S. T., & Jha, R		
Title:	Advancing Administration and Human Rights.		
Edition:		Year:	2026
Local:			
Publisher:	Journal of Health and Human Services Administration		
ISBN Code:			

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Fialho, J., Silva, C. A., & Saragoça, J.		
Title:	Diagnóstico Social ? Teoria, Metodologia e Casos Práticos.		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2015
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Silabo		
ISBN Code:			

Author(s):	SCHIEFER, Ulrich, et al.		
Title:	MAPA -Manual de planeamento e avaliação de Projectos		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2006
Local:	Estoril		
Publisher:	Principia		

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