

European social policy

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Course description

The aim of the course is to describe and highlight the main changes made or initiated in EU Member States because of the European integration itself as well as to explore the future of the European Social Model. The approach of a multi-level (multi-tiered) social protection system applied to the European Social Area, where central European employment and protection policies are interacting with the specific policies of the individual Member States is discussed. The phases of the evolving European Social Policy (Treaty of Rome, Single Internal Market, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Lisbon), and the current employment and social protection policies are analyzed. Particular attention is given on the development of new governance tools such as the Open Method of Coordination as well as on new policy procedures including Europe 2020 and the European Semester. The major changes imposed on European welfare states by the central EU institutions that lead to a new social protection architecture are highlighted.

Required reading

- Sakellariopoulos Th., (ed.), (2011), The social policy of the European Union. Athens: Dionikos.
- Sakellariopoulos Th., (2001), Supra-national social policies in the era of globalization. Athens: Kritiki.