

Eduardo Barberis, Leonardo Catena, Angela Genova, Federico Rossi

Social Policy and Social Policy Research in Italy

Teaching, Data infrastructure and Policy Advice

At a glance

- Most social policy teaching in higher education occurs in BA and MA programmes in social work, where social policy constitutes an important major. Additionally, programmes in political science and sociology often include teaching on welfare studies
- Social policymaking in Italy is fragmented across various governance levels and actors, often lacking coordination. Therefore, policy advice from civil organisations, think tanks and public bodies with consultancy roles in social policies is embedded in and has to be attuned to this complex landscape.
- In the Italian context, data infrastructures focused on social policy are similarly fragmented. As social policy encompasses various interconnected fields, several data sources that provide valuable information for social policy research and policymaking can be identified.

ABSTRACT

Social policy teaching occurs predominantly in the academic fields of social work, political science and sociology. Learning outcomes of academic programs dealing with social policy include theoretical and methodological knowledge, organizational and management skills, as well as the ability to design social policies and social welfare programs. Social policy graduates have high chances in the current labour market, at least partly due to a recent increase in the public demand for social workers.

Originally constituted by the main actor in social policy making the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP) remains a crucial consultant besides civil society organisations, universities and think tanks. While the National Institute of Statistics (Istat) is the main aggregator of socio-politically relevant data, the data remains highly dispersed across various repositories and applies to different territorial levels, while the tailoring of the latter has often been subject to change in Italy.

GERMAN ABSTRACT

Sozialpolitik wird an Hochschulen hauptsächlich in den Bereichen Soziale Arbeit, Politikwissenschaft und Soziologie gelehrt. Zu den Lernzielen in sozialpolitisch ausgerichteten Studiengängen gehören unter anderem theoretische und methodische Kenntnisse, Organisations- und Managementfähigkeiten, sowie die Fähigkeit, sozialpolitische Initiativen und Wohlfahrtsprogramme zu designen. Gegenwärtig haben Absolventen sozialpolitischer Studiengänge gute Chancen auf dem Arbeitsmarkt, was zumindest teilweise auf die in letzter Zeit gestiegenen Einstellungsquoten von Sozialarbeiter*innen im öffentlichen Sektor zurückgeführt werden kann.

Das Nationale Institut für die Analyse der öffentlichen Politik (INAPP) hat neben zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen, Universitäten und Think Tanks eine zentrale Beratungsfunktion für das Ministerium für Arbeit und Soziales. Während sozialpolitisch relevante Daten weiterhin über diverse Datenpools verstreut bleibt, ist das Nationale Institut für Statistik (Istat) die wichtigste Behörde für die Aggregation öffentlicher Statistiken. Insgesamt erfolgt die Datenerhebung in Italien auf verschiedenen territorialen Ebenen, deren Zuschnitt sich historisch auch häufig verändert hat, was wiederum die Vergleichbarkeit und die Kompatibilität der Daten erschwert.

1 Teaching and learning social policy in Italian HEIs

1.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents and discusses the data concerning the BA and MA programmes in the area of social policy, using information from institutional public repositories and universities' websites. Data are complemented with available information on students' and graduates' key characteristics, including labour market participation. The chapter presents a secondary analysis of data collected at national level by public and third sector organisations. Data concerning BA and MA courses are available from UniversItaly, an institutional repository of tertiary education opportunities in Italy.¹ Data concerning occupational status are available from the Alma Laurea database.²³⁴⁵

1.2. STUDY PROGRAMMES IN SOCIAL POLICY IN ITALY

1.2.1 DATA ON NATIONAL BA AND MA PROGRAMMES

In Italy, there are 24 BA programmes specifically focused on Social Policy (see Table 1 in the Appendix), corresponding to those for the “Social Worker” profession (L-39 according to the Ministerial Decree 22 ottobre 2004, n. 270). At MA level, some 34 have a major in Social Policy – again mostly related to training expert social workers, with a focus on social policy management and planning (see Table 2 in the Appendix).

¹ See: <https://www.universitaly.it/cerca-corsi>.

² See: for BA programmes: <https://www2.almalaurea.it/cgi-php/universita/statistiche/visualizza.php?anno=2023&corstipo=L&ateneo=tutti&facolta=tutti&gruppo=tutti&livello=tutti&area4=tutti&pa=tutti&classe=10006&postcorso=tutti&isstella=0&annolau=1&condocc=tutti&isrcrls=tutti&disaggregazione=&LANG=it&CONFIG=occupazione>

³ See for MA programmes: <https://www2.almalaurea.it/cgi-php/universita/statistiche/visualizza.php?anno=2023&corstipo=LS&ateneo=tutti&facolta=tutti&gruppo=tutti&livello=tutti&area4=tutti&pa=tutti&classe=11057&postcorso=tutti&isstella=0&annolau=1&condocc=tutti&isrcrls=tutti&disaggregazione=&LANG=it&CONFIG=occupazione>

⁴ See for PhD courses in social policy: https://cercauniversita.mur.gov.it/php5/dottorati/vis_dottorati.php?universita=00&setto=SPS/07&area=14&radiogrup=E&titolo=&ciclo=0000&pagina=73

⁵ Postdoc and other academic positions: https://cercauniversita.mur.gov.it/php5/assegnisti/vis_assegnisti.php?qualifica=&argomento=&title_radiogrup=P&cognome=&nome=&radiogrup=E&universita=00&facolta=00&setto=SPS%2F07&area=0000&situazione_al=0&vai=Invio; Academic positions: https://cercauniversita.mur.gov.it/php5/docenti/vis_docenti.php

1.2.2 SOCIAL WORK: PROGRAMMES WITH EXPLICIT SOCIAL POLICY CONTENT

In Italy, the disciplines in BA and MA programmes are regulated by a national framework that has been recently reformed (Ministerial Decree 19 Dicembre 2023). Within the updated national regulation, “social policy” is explicitly mentioned just in one type of BA programme: “Scienze del servizio sociale”, which can be translated as “Social Work Science”. Social policy is one of the main core topics in the BA Social Worker programmes. The learning outcomes of these programmes are defined at national level as follows: “The aim of the classroom courses is to train experts in social services, capable of working in all those contexts in which training of a social welfare nature is required. In particular, graduates from the courses of the class must possess: a) theoretical and methodological knowledge and useful tools to operate in the field of social services and **social policies**; b) theoretical knowledge necessary to understand the needs to which the structure of social services responds; c) practical skills relating the contents of the basic and specialised courses to the internship and practical activities, which are indispensable for the training of a graduate who will work in the field of welfare and social services.”⁶

Regarding MA programmes, the national regulatory framework is outlined by the Ministerial Decree (DM) 270/2004 (Entitled “Modifiche al regolamento recante norme concernenti l'autonomia didattica degli atenei, approvato con decreto del Ministro dell'università e della ricerca scientifica e tecnologica 3 novembre 1999, n. 509” [Modifications of the regulation on universities' teaching autonomy]).⁷ Again, social policy disciplines in MA programmes are explicitly mentioned in the regulation of social work programmes, namely the so-called group “LM-87”, whose precise title is “Social work and **social policy**.” Consistently, the national framework and the professional outcomes report that: “Graduates from the master’s degree programmes may exercise functions of organisation, management and consultancy for individuals, organisations and institutions; these functions may concern relational dynamics, the management of human resources, the organisation of resources and structures and the economic management of institutions, services and organisations, as well as the design of **social policies**”.

Nonetheless, ‘social policy’ is also present in the learning outcomes of the programme “LM-50”, i.e. the group of Master’s degrees in planning and managing educational services. In this case, the learning outcomes stated in the national framework are defined as follows: “Graduates from the master’s degree courses in this group are qualified to work in the area of coordinating educational and **social welfare services** with the task of designing, supervising and evaluating educational and rehabilitation projects, managing time, tools, technical, human and financial resources and presiding over the quality, innovation and promotion of the activities in the field. They must possess: ... an in-depth knowledge of issues related to the management and development of human resources, **social policies** and the relationship with the field/context/environment concerning services” (DM 270/2004).

1.2.3 OTHER DISCIPLINARY AREAS

Social policy is part of the topics within the 14/GSPS-05 disciplinary area, previously called SPS/07 - Sociologia generale (en: General Sociology). In the field of research and teaching, the sector is specified according to the following topics: a) theories and history of sociology;

⁶ (Decreto Ministeriale n. 1648 del 19-12-2023.pdf) Decreto Ministeriale n. 1648 del 19-12-2023 - allegato.pdf)

⁷ [https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:ministero.istruzione.universita.e.ricerca:decreto:2004-10-22;270lvig=.](https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:ministero.istruzione.universita.e.ricerca:decreto:2004-10-22;270lvig=)

b) comparative social systems; c) methodology and techniques of social research; d) epistemology and survey models of the social sciences; e) strategies for the analysis and presentation of sociological data; f) social studies on science and technology; g) political-social ecology; h) sociology of innovation; sociology of health, medicine and sport; i) evaluation of social policies and interventions; l) social innovation and sustainability; m) social policies, models, systems and welfare regimes; n) principles, fundamentals, methods and deontology of social service; o) planning, organisation and management of **social policies and services**".⁸ Nonetheless, topics included in this disciplinary area – including social policy – may also be taught in other BA or MA programmes, such as political science, economics and law programmes. This ultimately depends on the programme's planning and regulation outlined at the level of each university, thus leaving a high level of discretion. For example, there are a few programmes in the group of BA and MA in Public Administration (L-16; LM-62; LM-63) that have explicit references to social policy and welfare – usually as a minor within a general programme in political science. For instance, the LM-63 "Politics, Administration and Organisation" at the University of Bologna has a curriculum called "Politics and Social Policy", the LM-62 in Turin and LM-63 in Padua, with curricula focused on public administration, also include teaching activities on governing and managing social policies. The same applies to programmes in sociology, that not rarely are offered in joint programmes for sociology and social work, opening some degree of permeability between the two fields despite usually remaining formally separated degrees. The connection between sociology and social work is very strong, as both disciplines belong to the same academic area. Consequently, the analysis and management of social policy are topics commonly included in sociology degree programmes. A notable example is the Master's programme in "*Social and Spatial Policy*" at the University of Naples "Federico II."

Economics programmes, on the other hand, tend to focus less on social policy, except in certain cases where public policy analysis includes social and health policy. One example is the Master's programme in "Economics, Public Policy and Sustainability" at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, which offers various courses on managing, governing and analysing welfare and health services. Similarly, the Master's programme in "Public Management and Social and Health Systems" at the Marche Polytechnic University emphasises social and health policy.

It is also worth mentioning that some Master's programmes in the education and pedagogy field (coded LM-50, focusing on the planning and management of educational services) may include content on social policy. This overlap exists because certain educational professions in Italy share responsibilities that, at an international level, align with the domain of social work.

It is worth mentioning that the careers of public managers in social and welfare policy at different levels (from local authorities to national agencies) are rarely connected to a specific disciplinary profile. Usually these professions can be accessed by a wide range of graduates – including law and economics. In practice, managers of social and welfare policy may theoretically come from three different academic backgrounds:

1. Social work professions (social workers, educators ...);

⁸ See: Gruppi Scientifici Disciplinari e Settori Scientifici Disciplinari, Decreto Ministeriale n. 639 del 02-05-2024 - Allegato A.pdf, <https://www.mur.gov.it/sites/default/files/2024-05/Decreto%20Ministeriale%20n.%20639%20del%2002-05-2024%20-%20Allegato%20A.pdf>.

2. Social and political sciences, and usually have passed at least a few exams on welfare and social policy;
3. A general degree with a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds, maybe or maybe not with a minor focused on social policy and welfare.

1.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS AND LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES FOR BA AND MA SOCIAL POLICY GRADUATES

Data about the labour market outcomes of social policy graduates show that in 2023 a total of 2,225 students graduated with a BA in social policy. Students present various striking characteristics. First, nearly all of them are female (92.6%) and most are younger than 24 years old (74%). The number of working students is relatively low, being 7.4% as against the 17% of the whole university student population. Moreover, most of them live in the same province as the university they attend (51%) or in the same region (32%). Finally, the majority of students enrolled in a BA in social policy come from families where neither parent has completed university education (81%), with only a small proportion from families where both parents are university graduates (5%). Students who completed the BA graduated with an average degree mark of 101.8/110.

Concerning the occupational status of graduates in social policy in 2023, 30% are currently employed, although 15% of them are employed but also enrolled in MA programmes. Among those who are currently working, 20% are employed in the same job they had before graduating. Students who entered the labour market after graduating from a BA in social policy transitioned from education to work quite fast: on average, the time between graduation to starting the search for the first job is 1.4 months, while the time from the beginning of the search to finding the first job is 2.7 months. More than half the graduates have a permanent job contract (53.2%), while 27.4% are working with a temporary one. However, 48% of them have a part-time job and 26.5% state that working part-time is involuntary. Private organisations remain the main employer (45%), followed by third sector organisations (33.7%) and the public sector (21%). Data also show a monthly gender pay gap of about €30, with men on average being paid €1,111 and women €1,081 per month. The proportion of people out of the labour market and education after completing the BA is 8% of graduates, while the unemployment rate is 18.3%.⁹

Such a positive outcome – particularly in the context of a relatively stagnant labour market like Italy's – is likely attributable to recent public investment in the recruitment of social workers. Given that many services are outsourced, this trend also aligns with the increased number of employees in the private sector. The 2020 financial law stipulated that the standard ratio of social workers across the country should be approximately one per 5,000 inhabitants, with a further target of one per 4,000. Due to the high turnover in the profession, partly owing to retirement, the recruitment of new social workers has increased. In 2021 and 2022, 1,688 new social workers were employed by local authorities alone, despite available funding being less than anticipated, particularly in Southern Italy.

⁹ <https://www.upbilancio.it/focus-n-5-2023-lattuazione-del-livello-essenziale-delle-prestazioni-di-assistenza-sociale-il-reclutamento-degli-assistenti-sociali/>

About 54% of students who graduated from the BA continue their studies with an MA programme and – of these – 83% enrol in social work MA programmes. When looking at data regarding MA programmes, 1,087 students graduated in 2023 and share a similar gender distribution as in the BA with 93.1% women. The average age at graduation is about 28 years old and the employment rate is 74% against an unemployment rate of 13.8%. More than a third of MA graduates (36.4%) continue in the job they had before graduation, while 41% enter the labour market after obtaining their degree. University to work transitions are similar to those described above with a relatively short period between graduation and the first job – 4 months on average. Yet, the share of temporary job contracts is 44.5%, as opposed to the 41.2% of graduates with a permanent one, and the level of part-time contracts decreases to 28.4%, of which, however, 20.3% are involuntary. The distribution of employers is also different, with the public sector now leading (37.3%), followed by third sector organisations (32%) and private organisations (30.8%). It is also worth noting that, despite the monthly net salary increasing on average, the gender pay gap also increases up to €153 per month: the mean salary is €1,416 for men and €1,263 for women.

1.4. EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND EARLY CAREERS IN ACADEMIA

In Italy, there are 100 PhD programmes starting in 2024–2025 (XXXX° cycle), most of which involve several disciplines (see Table 3). While only two PhD programmes (Roma Tre University, Catholic University in Milan) have an explicit share of scholarships reserved for social workers, with the aim to qualify social work professionals in research and management skills, a large number of PhD programmes in Social Sciences have candidates with projects in social policy and welfare studies, potentially contributing to a career in the field. The number of postdoc positions in sociological areas – which include social policy – is currently 193. Although specific data on social policy postdoc positions are not available, there are at least 31 postdoc projects in sociological areas containing reference to social policy in their description of the project's topic.¹⁰ Finally, the total number of academic positions in sociological areas is 454.¹¹ The main sociological association dealing with social policy is 'AIS Politica Sociale' (en: Italian Association of Sociology 'Social Policy')¹², while specific professional associations are listed in Table 4 in the Appendix.

¹⁰ These numbers derive from searching in the CercaUniversità database on postdoc projects in sociological areas containing the following key terms: "servizio sociale", "servizi sociali", "politiche sociali", "social work", "social policies", "welfare". Being only based on a few key terms in projects' description, this research is necessarily incomplete, since it does not include projects dealing with specific subtopics of social policies (e.g. immigration, youth services, family services, healthcare, etc.). Source: https://cercauniversita.mur.gov.it/php5/assegnisti/vis_assegnisti.php?qualifica=&argomento=&title_radiogroup=P&cognome=&nome=&radiogroup=E&universita=00&facolta=00&setto=SPS%2F07&area=0000&situazione_al=0&vai=Invio.

¹¹ https://cercauniversita.mur.gov.it/php5/docenti/vis_docenti.php.

¹² <https://www.ais-sociologia.it/politica-sociale/>.

2 Consultancy on social policy: a who's who

2.1. CONSULTANCY, LOBBYING, ACTIVISM AND DOING POLICY. ADVISING OR BASHING THE PRINCE?

Social policymaking in Italy is fragmented across various governance levels and actors, often lacking coordination (Barberis and Kazepov, 2013). This fragmentation increased after the reform of Title V of the Constitution, which granted many social policy responsibilities to the Regions, and the recently approved “differentiated autonomy” reform may further amplify this. Advisory and consultancy roles in social policy thus assume different configurations in different local contexts. However, national-level actors, such as public bodies, civil society organisations and think tanks also play significant roles. Their main interlocutor is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which handles most social policymaking at the state level, as well as local and Regional institutions. In this context, national and government-related institutions have gained importance in recent years, particularly through involvement in major reforms like the “Jobs Act” and the “Reddito di Cittadinanza,” [RdC, see below] providing consultancy and evaluation. However, their influence remains largely limited to specific areas and interventions.

Civil society organisations typically engage with national policymakers through reports or public statements, or, occasionally, through hearings at the Parliamentary Commissions for Social Affairs or Labour or in other specific committees. In these instances, the line between consultancy and lobbying can blur, as these actors often mix advisory roles with activism, being usually more critical of policymakers. Despite this, they can significantly influence policymaking, especially when they are focused on specific issues and can count on extensive networks and recognition in their fields. Moreover, these actors are frequently involved in projects promoted by local and regional policymakers, providing crucial contributions for capacity building.

Similarly, think tanks occupy a hybrid role, alternating between quasi-lobbying activities and participation in projects or direct consultancy for social policymaking. The latter is particularly prevalent when think tank members are close to government bodies, a common occurrence at the national level in technocratic governments (Openpolis 2020). Universities also assume various roles. Indeed, researchers frequently participate as experts in committees for specific measures or undertake state- or EU-funded projects that produce policy recommendations. At the same time, they also conduct independent social policy research and address policymakers through various strategies. The following subsections will provide examples of various consultancy actors, focusing on public bodies, think tanks and issue-specific actors. This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive, showcasing the mechanisms described above.

2.2. PUBLIC BODIES

2.2.1 THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS (INAPP) AND THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACTIVE LABOUR POLICY (ANPAL)

When considering public bodies with consultancy roles in social policies, the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP) stands out. This public research institute, controlled by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, was established in 1973 as ISFOL (Institute for the Development of Workers' Professional Training), and was renamed and reformed after the 2015 Jobs Act reform. Initially focused on advisory services for the VET system, its remit expanded with reforms in 2003 and 2015 to cover a wide range of social policies. INAPP continues to produce annual reports on VET for the government and Parliament, but now also engages in research, monitoring and evaluation of policies in labour, education and social inclusion. It provides technical support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Council of Ministers, and other national or local authorities. To fulfil these tasks, specific research groups have been established within the institute, often on the initiative of the Ministry itself. One example is the project on migrant inclusion, which began as a specific agreement with the Ministry and evolved into a permanent research structure within INAPP.

The Jobs Act reform not only reshaped INAPP but also led to the creation of a new body, the National Agency for Active Labour Policies (ANPAL), by transferring part of ISFOL into the state-owned company Sviluppo Lavoro Italia. ANPAL was tasked with various roles, including advisory activities for public institutions on active labour policies for vulnerable groups. It was intended to play a significant role in the Renzi government's labour policy reforms, designing measures to include vulnerable individuals in the labour market. Additionally, ANPAL was central to the RdC initiative promoted by the first Conte government, overseeing the implementation and monitoring of labour-related aspects of this social provision. However, its connection to this reform led to its closure after the RdC ended in 2024, with its functions transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and its research personnel reabsorbed into INAPP.

2.2.2 OTHER CONSULTANCY AND ADVOCACY PUBLIC BODIES

At the crossroads of political, advocacy and institutional support lies the CNEL (National Committee for Economics and Labour), a constitutional body whose members are representatives of social partners. As one of its tasks is to advise the government, not rarely its recommendations are based on research commissioned from various agencies. Recently, CNEL topped the political debate with its conflicting advice on a minimum wage policy.

Beyond government-affiliated institutions, other public actors also conduct research to inform social policymaking. The National Research Council (CNR), Italy's largest public research institution, undertakes research in various fields and provides consultancy for both public and private entities. Within CNR, the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies (IRPSS) focuses on social policy research, producing reports and policy evaluations in diverse areas. IRPSS collaborates on numerous projects, particularly those related to migration, gender, innovation, education and healthcare. One example is the VIVA Project, which analyses and evaluates measures to prevent and combat gender violence.

Universities also play a significant role in consultancy on social policies. Individual researchers frequently serve on committees for designing or evaluating specific policies. For example, five of the twelve members of the Committee for the Evaluation of the RdC (see below) were university professors included as “individual experts.” Additionally, universities themselves are directly involved in consultancy and advisory activities. This occurs primarily through research or policy-oriented projects funded by EU resources or PRIN funds (“Projects of Relevant National Interest”), which often produce policy recommendations for various levels of policymakers. Universities also engage in consultancy for private, third sector, or local and regional actors through their so-called “Third Mission,” which is part of Italian universities’ remit and involves activities to transfer knowledge to socio-economic stakeholders. Consultancy is one such activity and can also be conducted through university spin-offs, i.e. companies established by universities.

Finally, there are public bodies with consultancy tasks in specific sectors related to social policies. One example is the National Institute for the Evaluation of the Education and Training System (INVALSI). This is a public research body with the aim of monitoring the learning outcomes of students, the working of education and training institutions, and the causes of under-achievement and early school leaving. It is also responsible, among other tasks, for providing support and technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Regions, local authorities and single education institutions for the realisation of autonomous measures in this field.

2.3. THINK TANKS

Many think tanks engage in consultancy roles in social policy. This section presents examples illustrating their strategies and relationships with policymakers. Although not exhaustive, such examples show the variety of structures found among think tanks offering social policy advice, encompassing both advocacy-oriented and purely consultancy-focused actors. The network *Alleanza contro la Povertà* (“Alliance Against Poverty”), created in 2013, gathers 35 third sector organisations and trade unions, aiming to develop, monitor and assess anti-poverty measures. This network exemplifies the blend of lobbying and consultancy. On the one hand, it was instrumental in the creation, implementation and evaluation of the Inclusion Income (Rel) – a precursor to the RdC – signing a Memorandum with the Gentiloni government in 2017 and monitoring its application. On the other hand, it pursues its own political agenda, articulated in an eight-point programme, and has repeatedly opposed the Meloni government’s decision to abolish the RdC, advocating for an adequate alternative.

The *Forum Diseguaglianze Diversità* (“Forum Inequalities Diversity”) is a think tank formed in 2017 by eight associations and individual affiliated researchers. Similar to *Alleanza contro la Povertà*, this organisation engages with policymakers to promote its core proposals, outlined in a 15-point programme. Additionally, the Forum has published a strategy paper detailing its political strategy for implementing these proposals and openly supports political candidates who pledge to adopt them during local and national elections. This quasi-lobbying and political action is complemented by monitoring activities, such as its involvement in the Civic Observatory on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), participation in projects and the design of specific social provisions. Notably, the Emergency Income introduced by the Italian government during the Covid-19 pandemic was based on one of the Forum’s proposals. According to the Forum’s own reports, its consultancy role is primarily recognised by local institutions, political parties and individual ministries of the centre-left (Forum DD, 2020).

The Institute for Social Research (IRS) is a non-profit organisation and one of the oldest independent think tanks for social policy consultancy in Italy, founded in 1973. Unlike the previous examples, IRS does not have a defined political programme and does not engage in quasi-lobbying activities. The Institute publishes two series on public and social policies and undertakes various initiatives through observatories and dissemination campaigns, mostly in Northern Italy. It also participates in several EU-funded projects and collaborates with local and national policymakers on specific issues, such as monitoring and evaluating Family Centres managed by the Department for Family Policies within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Similarly, *Secondo Welfare* ("Second Welfare") is a social enterprise associated with the University of Milan, focusing on community-based welfare interventions. Like IRS, it conducts research and produces reports independently and on commission, while also supporting public and private bodies – especially Regions and municipalities – in various projects and measures. This think tank is illustrative of many other private consultancy actors carrying out commissioned research, monitoring and support in policy design. Although not necessarily, these are often tied to universities and mainly active at the regional level.

2.4. EXAMPLES FROM ISSUE-SPECIFIC CASES

Here, we highlight a few issue-specific consultancy and lobbying groups, namely the GIMBE Foundation, the Network Non Autosufficienza, and Euricse.

The GIMBE Foundation, founded in 1996, is an independent, non-profit organisation that operates without public funding and is focused on healthcare. It gained significant visibility during the Covid-19 pandemic due to its key role in health-related research and policy. GIMBE collaborates with various partners, including the National Health Service, universities, local health authorities, scientific societies and the media. Its primary aim is to promote, disseminate and apply the best scientific evidence through independent research, training programmes and scientific publications. The foundation's core activities include advocating for political and institutional bodies for equitable access to healthcare, reducing health inequalities, prioritising health across all policy areas and promoting evidence-based decision-making in health management and policy. GIMBE also strives to enhance health research's quality, ethics and integrity, reducing waste and maximising its value.

Additionally, it supports multi-professional integration and the dissemination of independent information to empower citizens and patients to make informed healthcare decisions. GIMBE is committed to raising public awareness of the National Health Service as a shared public good, and it engages in extensive editorial work to share its research, projects and institutional positions. The foundation is affiliated with several international organisations, with which it shares common objectives, methodologies and initiatives.

The *Network Non Autosufficienza* (Non-Self-Sufficiency Network, NNA) was established in 2009 to enhance reflection on services and policies for older individuals with care needs. It comprises scholars, public and private service managers, and consultants. Its objectives include assessing continuous care provided by public entities from a multidisciplinary perspective, stimulating debate and change, and communicating in a proactive manner to a wide audience. Since 2009, NNA has published seven reports on long-term care for older adults in Italy. Since 2014, these reports have been published biennially, and a new editorial line, the In-depth Analyses, has been introduced to delve deeper into specific topics, services or issues of particular relevance. The Network has an online journal.

Euricse (European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises) is a foundation established in 2008 on the initiative of the University of Trento. It promotes knowledge and innovation in the field of cooperatives, social enterprises and other nonprofit organisations engaged in the production of goods and services. The Institute aims to deepen the understanding of the role and impact of these entities on economic and social development, supporting their growth and improving their effectiveness.

2.5. TALKING TO A BRICK WALL? THE CASE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RDC

The “*Reddito di Cittadinanza*” (RdC) was the most extensive guaranteed minimum income programme Italy has ever implemented, in effect from 2019 to 2024. Its introduction sparked intense political debate. As a flagship policy of the then-prominent Five Star Movement (a populist syncretic party), RdC had supporters who argued it was a crucial tool for combating widespread poverty. At the same time, critics voiced concerns from different perspectives. Right-wing detractors focused on its cost and potential to encourage welfare dependency, while left-wing opponents criticised its workfare elements and its limited scope.

While much of the public debate lacked a solid data-driven foundation (Cacciapaglia 2023; Maitino *et al.* 2024), the definition, implementation and evaluation of the RdC were shaped by the contributions of key institutional actors and experts.

During the legislative process, parliamentary committees consulted numerous stakeholders, including critical social partners and all the public bodies involved in institutional decision-making and policy implementation, such as INPS (the national social insurance agency), ANPAL and INAPP (see above), and ISTAT (the national statistical institute). These institutions provided extensive statistical analyses on the state of poverty in Italy and simulations of the potential effects of various guaranteed minimum income models.

They were also involved in producing and analysing data to monitor the implementation of the RdC. It is worth noting that key managers at these institutions were appointed by the government backing the RdC. A notable example is INPS President Pasquale Tridico, an economist who advocated for guaranteed minimum income measures and played a central role in implementing the RdC.

In the academic debate, data from the public institutions above were used and complemented by scholarly analyses, often in open dialogue with researchers from ISTAT and INAPP themselves, focusing on the multiple dimensions of the RdC's outcomes (labour market participation, effect on poverty, well-being – see for example the interesting survey by INAPP, 2022). Although much of this complex analysis did not permeate the public debate – marked by sharp ideological divides, four different governments, and a general election during the lifespan of the RdC – it was certainly well understood by the Scientific Committee tasked with evaluating RdC outcomes.

The Committee was first appointed in 2021 by the Draghi coalition government, with Chiara Saraceno, arguably the most renowned Italian scholar in welfare studies, serving as its president. It included members from relevant ministries and agencies and external experts. In November 2021, the Committee published its report, along with an additional brief titled “Ten Propositions to Improve the *Reddito di Cittadinanza*.” The report offered evidence-based recommendations and highlighted design inconsistencies in the programme. However, the

actual reform of the RdC largely ignored the Committee's suggestions (Sacchi *et al.*, 2023; Saraceno, 2023). The underprotection of large families remains an issue, while the conditionality of the programme has become increasingly stringent. The only notable improvement has been the expanded accessibility for foreigners.

The Scientific Committee itself was restructured, with over two-thirds of its members replaced, and the new president being the newly appointed head of INAPP. As a result, the Committee's recommendations shifted from improving the RdC as a guaranteed minimum income to enhancing the effectiveness of conditionality.

In summary, this case exemplifies the impact of political cleavages and high polarisation on the effectiveness of institutional advisory processes. It also highlights the challenges of fostering a public and policy debate grounded in evidence, as data production can often be used in a "militant" or politically-driven manner.

3 Data infrastructure on social policy

3.1. INSTITUTIONAL DATA AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY: OPEN DATA, OPEN QUESTIONS

There are no dedicated data infrastructures specifically focused on social policy in the Italian context. However, as social policy encompasses various interconnected fields, several data sources that provide valuable information for social policy research and policymaking can be identified. At first glance, the volume of openly accessible data addressing social policy issues in Italy appears quite extensive. Numerous public datasets are available, which can be accessed directly via dedicated web pages or obtained by researchers and other stakeholders through requests to the institutions that collected the data. Among these institutions, the National Institute of Statistics (Istat) holds a prominent position, but many other public sources – often providing less refined data or concentrating on specific issues – are also available, including the National Institute for Social Security (INPS), the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, and the aforementioned INAPP and INVALSI, as well as similar organisations. Additionally, private or civil society institutions offer data on specific topics, such as ISMU on migration, the Caritas Foundation on poverty-related issues, and fio.PSD on homelessness.

This framework, however, faces significant limitations. One key issue is the fragmentation of data, which is dispersed across various repositories with minimal interconnection. This fragmentation not only complicates access to datasets, even when they are open access, but also limits the potential for complex analysis, thereby hindering the ability to cross-reference and combine datasets. Secondly, data accuracy is sometimes constrained by the aggregated nature of most available data and the territorial level at which they are collected. Most datasets refer to the national or regional level, with notable exceptions of municipal data provided by Istat. Even in the latter case, territorial changes that have occurred in Italy over recent decades prevent the use of such data in longitudinal studies for all Italian municipalities.¹³ Sub-municipal data are very rare and mostly limited to national censuses, conducted in 1991, 2001, 2011, and 2021. It is important to note, however, that the 2021 data have not been fully released yet and will consist of sample data rather than actual census data.

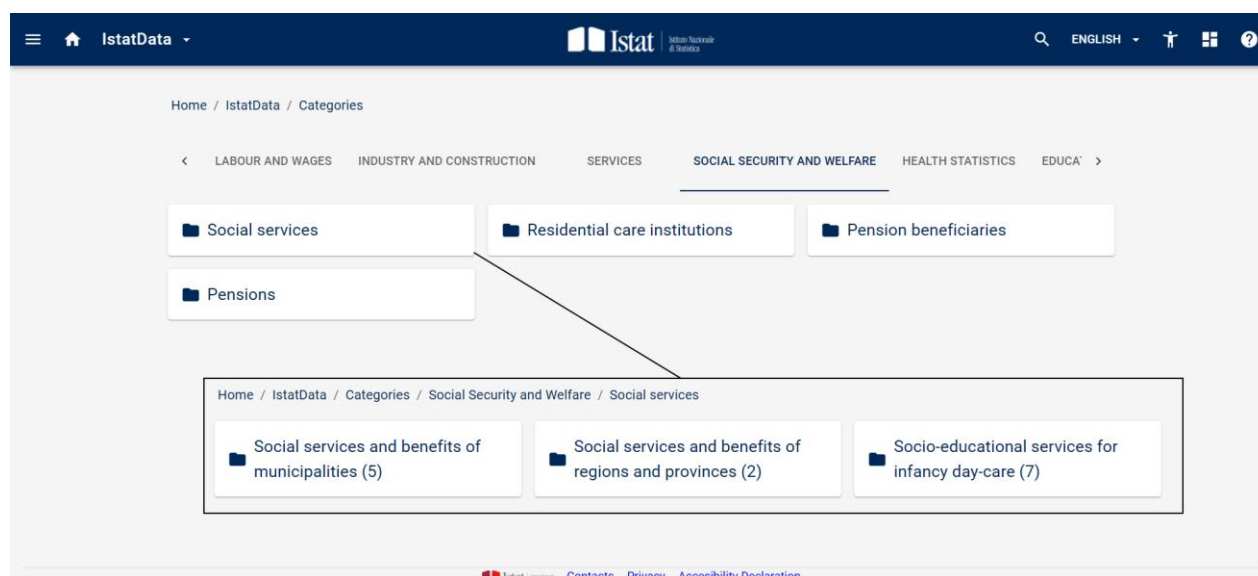
In the following sections, the current infrastructure of available data related to social policy dimensions is examined, taking into account the main data-

¹³ Territorial changes mostly refer here to fusion and separation of municipalities, which – in the absence of sub-local data – hinder the reconstruction of data series before the new localities were created and thus prevent the use of longitudinal data referring to them.

3.2. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS (ISTAT)

The National Institute of Statistics (Istat) is a public governmental body and the principal provider of official statistics in Italy, also responsible for conducting censuses. Currently, various datasets are made available via open access on their data platform, IstatData,¹⁴ which is progressively replacing the old portal, I.Stat.¹⁵ Among the most relevant for social policy research, Istat provides useful information in various sections of its website. In particular, Social Security and Welfare, and Policies for Social Cohesion include different kinds of data about policies and expenditure for social services, elder care and pensions, social protection, active labour market policies, social security and income support and other welfare services. Yet, other useful information can also be retrieved from more general datasets about households and social cohesion. The figure below illustrates the structure of the available data in the IstatData warehouse, which aggregates data from the municipal level upwards for most of the listed dimensions.¹⁶

Figure 1. Internal structure of Social Security and Welfare category in IstatData.



In addition to the aggregated data accessible on the IstatData platform, Istat also provides various microdata with varying levels of accessibility: 1) files for public use, which can be directly downloaded from the website after agreeing to the terms of use; 2) standard files, available for research purposes only upon submission of a formal request detailing the research and the handling of the data; 3) research files, which are restricted to researchers from institutions recognised by Eurostat or Comstat; 4) Sistan files, reserved for public statistical institutions; 5) ADELE Lab files, available exclusively for research purposes and accessible on-site; and 6) integrated files, composed of merged datasets, only available on-site.

¹⁴ Available at: <https://esploradati.istat.it/databrowser/#/en>.

¹⁵ The old portal is still available at: <http://dati.istat.it/?lang=en>. As separate sections of the old data warehouse, Istat also provided specific datasets on Social Cohesion (<http://dati.coesione-sociale.it/Index.aspx?lang=en&SubSessionId=f8737510-101a-4660-961e-3e0820dfdc0d>) and Public Administration (<http://dati.statistiche-pa.it/Index.aspx?lang=en&SubSessionId=abe6b36f-3adc-4014-8329-7afc87147109>), which contained most of data about social policies.

¹⁶ See: <https://esploradati.istat.it/databrowser/#/en/dw/categories>.

Within the first group, the most significant datasets related to social policy are the “Aspects of Daily Life” survey, an annual survey (1993–2021) involving approximately 20,000 households (representing a total of about 50,000 individuals); the “Children and Young People” survey, conducted in 2015 and 2021 with a sample of around 41,000 secondary school students; and the 2015 national section of the European Health Interview Survey. All these datasets are fully available on the Istat website and offer a wide range of variables regarding respondents’ socio-economic conditions. Notably, the “Aspects of Daily Life” survey, which provides time series data, has been widely used in academic publications on the quality of life in Italy. As for the standard and research files, these include, among others, the national section of EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Condition), which contains both longitudinal (four-year series) and cross-sectional data on income and living conditions.

3.3. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL OBSERVATORIES AND REPOSITORIES

As previously mentioned, although Istat is the primary provider of public data, it is not the only institution involved. In the context of social policy, INPS also plays a significant role as the largest national public insurance body. The institute collects a substantial amount of data concerning labour statuses and social security matters. However, efforts to make these data accessible and usable for researchers and policymakers have only recently been undertaken, in line with European Union directives on data sharing between public institutions. The main repository for INPS datasets is its Open Data project, which gathers data on specific labour market issues and social policies. This data is collected annually, based on the institute’s activities, and is available at national and regional levels. Notable examples include datasets on precarious work, information about recipients of RdC and other social benefits, as well as data on migrant employment and parental leaves.

Other data relevant to social policy are collected by INAPP and the now-disbanded ANPAL (whose datasets are no longer accessible through the institution’s resources and have been transferred to repositories managed by Istat, INAPP, or the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies). INAPP conducts numerous studies on labour-related issues and serves as Italy’s reference point for the European Social Survey (ESS) and the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. The institute provides aggregated data at the national level for several of its studies, such as the Quality of Labour survey, while access to microdata is restricted and requires an application, available only to research institutions recognised by Comstat or Eurostat. Lastly, in terms of data directly provided by the government, various types of open data can be accessed via the websites of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Ministry of Health. However, these institutions mainly compile data from other sources to create aggregated datasets, and their scope is therefore more limited.

3.4. PRODUCING DATA FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD IN DIALOGUE WITH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

As mentioned earlier in this report, many consultancy agencies have complex roles and vested interests in providing evidence bases for policymakers. A particularly relevant example is the production of data on migration issues. Migration is often a contentious topic, and for a long time, Italy lagged behind in developing clear migration policies (Angelucci *et al.*, 2017). Civil society organisations were often the first movers, not only in advocating for migrant integration and creating incorporation measures but also in providing evidence of the evolving Italian demographics.

In this context, Italy is characterised by a vast array of migration data reports, which are not merely collections of available institutional information. The official production of immigration data did not initially meet the needs of policymakers or the growing policy debates: ISTAT improved and enriched its data collection and communication on migration only in the last decade. With the notable exception of two reports edited by Giovanna Zincone (2000; 2001) for the Italian government, the first regular institutional reports on migration statistics compiling administrative data were only published in 2007 (Ministry of Interior), 2008 (Ministry of Education) and 2010 (Ministry of Labour and Welfare).

In contrast, in 2024, ISMU will publish its 30th report, while Caritas and IDOS (initially together and now separately) will publish their 33rd. ISMU is a foundation created in 1991 on the initiative of a banking charity in Milan as an independent scientific body focused on promoting research, information and training on ethnic and cultural diversity in Italy. IDOS originated in 2004 from the Roman branch of Italian Caritas, building on a group that had been publishing a statistical report on migration since 1991. Now a publisher and cooperative, IDOS focuses on producing research and raising awareness on migration and discrimination through research, training and advocacy.

Along with FIERI, founded in 2001 as an independent nonprofit organisation engaged in studying social and economic transformations related to international mobility and cultural diversity, these organisations are among the key data producers for the public good. Their goal is to release and interpret data to promote evidence-based policymaking and often to advocate for more empathetic views on migration.

Other civil society organisations have produced notable reports on specific topics. For example, the Leone Moressa Foundation in Venice has released a report on the economics of migration since 2010. The union-based Observatory Placido Rizzotto publishes reports and studies on labour exploitation, while Lunaria releases annual reports with data on racist attacks. CILD and the Open Society Foundations manage the website “Openmigration,” with the motto “Understanding through data – Advocating for dignity.”

Initially, many of these civil society reports collected and systematised institutional data that was not publicly accessible. In some cases, they supported public institutions in releasing their own data (early INPS reports on migration and social security were edited by IDOS, and some ministry reports on non-Italian students were edited by ISMU). Eventually, they also produced original research. For example, in Lombardy ISMU administers one of the oldest and most reliable surveys on migrant populations in Europe, while Caritas produces analyses on migrant poverty based on data collected from their drop-in centres. FIERI and IDOS often lead research, action-research and training projects funded by various public and private sources.

These reports typically receive significant media attention and make substantial contributions to the public debate, bolstered by their institutional recognition and connections with key actors in public discourse (politicians, top-level bureaucrats, clergymen, etc.).

Migration is not the only field where this dynamic occurs. A notable example is fio.PSD (the Italian Federation of Civil Society Organisations working with homeless people). fio.PSD’s advocacy work also involves research and analysis. They have established a scientific committee and maintain an Observatory on Homelessness that collects data on vulnerable populations and services. For instance, fio.PSD has been instrumental in promoting and evaluating Housing First initiatives in Italy (Cortese, 2016), as well as in improving statistical data on homelessness in the country.

4 APPENDIX

Table 1: BA programmes in Social Work

	Italian name of the programme	English translation
1	Disegno e gestione degli interventi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Firenze	Planning and Management of Social Interventions – LM-87, University of Florence
2	Gestione delle politiche dei servizi sociali e multiculturalità - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo	Management of Social Policy and Multiculturalism – LM-87, University of Urbino “Carlo Bo”
3	Gestione delle Politiche e dei Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”	Management of Social Policy and Social Work – LM-87, University of Naples “Federico II”
4	Gestione e innovazione dei servizi sociali, imprenditorialità sociale e management del terzo settore - LM-87, Università di PISA	Management and Innovation of Social Work, Social Entrepreneurship and Management of the Third Sector – LM-87, University of Pisa
5	Innovazione e servizio sociale - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Padova	Innovation and Social Work – LM-87, University of Padua
6	Lavoro sociale e coordinamento di servizi per immigrazione, povertà e non auto-sufficienza - LM-87, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano	Social Work and Coordination of Services for Immigration, Poverty and Non-self-sufficiency – LM-87, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan
7	Lavoro sociale e servizi per le famiglie, i minori e le comunità - LM-87, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano	Social Work and Services for Family, Minors and Communities – LM-87, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan
8	Lavoro, cittadinanza sociale, interculturalità - LM-87, Università “Ca’ Foscari”, Venezia	Social Work, Social Citizenship and Interculturalism – LM-87, University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari”
9	Metodologia, Organizzazione e Valutazione dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Trento	Methodology, Organisation and Evaluation of Social Work – LM-87, University of Trento
10	Politiche e management per il welfare - LM-87, Università degli Studi “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara	Welfare Policies and Management – LM-87, University “G. d’Annunzio”, Chieti-Pescara
11	Politiche e programmazione dei servizi alla persona - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Macerata	Policies and Planning of Personal Services – LM-87, University of Macerata
12	Politiche e servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Torino	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Turin

13	Politiche e Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Catania	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Catania
14	Politiche e servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Perugia	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Perugia
15	Politiche per l'innovazione e l'inclusione sociale - LM-87, Università per Stranieri "Dante Alighieri" di Reggio Calabria	Policies for Innovation and Social Inclusion – LM-87, University for Foreigners "Dante Alighieri, Reggio Calabria
16	Politiche sociali e servizio sociale - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Cassino and Southern Latium
17	Progettazione e gestione dei servizi e degli interventi sociali e educativi - LM-87, Università degli Studi dell'Aquila	Planning and Management of Social Work and Social and Education Interventions – LM-87, University of L'Aquila
18	Progettazione, gestione e valutazione dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza".	Planning, Management and Evaluation of Social Work – LM-87, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
19	Progettazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università del Salento	Planning and Management of Social Policies and Work – LM-87, University of Salento
20	Programmazione e Gestione dei Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Parma	Planning and Management of Social Work – LM-87, University of Parma
21	Programmazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Milano "Bicocca"	Planning and Management of Social Policies and Social Work – LM-87, University of Milan "Bicocca"
22	Programmazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Libera Università degli Studi "Maria SS. Assunta" – LUMSA, Roma	Planning and Management of Social Policies and Social Work – LM-87, Free University "Maria SS. Assunta" (LUMSA), Rome
23	Programmazione, amministrazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli	Planning, Administration and Management of Social Policies and Social Work – LM-87, University Sister Orsola Benincasa, Naples
24	Scienze delle Politiche e dei Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università della Calabria	Political Sciences and of Social Work – LM-87, University of Calabria
25	Scienze Sociali per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile - LM-87, UAE - Università Kore di Enna	Social Sciences for Sustainable Development – LM-87, University Kore, Enna
26	Servizio sociale e politiche sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi del Molise	Social Work and Social Policies – LM-87, University of Molise

27	Servizio Sociale e Politiche sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Genova	Social Work and Social Policies – LM-87, University of Genoa
28	Servizio Sociale e Politiche Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Sassari	Social Work and Social Policies – LM-87, University of Sassari
29	Servizio sociale in ambiti complessi - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Verona	Social Work in Complex Contexts – LM-87, University of Verona
30	Servizio sociale, disuguaglianze e vulnerabilità sociale - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Palermo	Social Work, Inequalities and Social Vulnerability – LM-87, University of Palermo
31	Servizio sociale, politiche sociali e studi sociologici e ricerca sociale - LM-87 / LM-88, Università degli Studi di Messina	Social Work, Social Policies, and Sociological Studies and Social Research – LM-87 / LM-87, University of Messina
32	Servizio sociale, politiche sociali, programmazione e gestione dei servizi - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Trieste	Social Work, Social Policies, Planning and Management of Services – LM-87, University of Trieste
33	Sociologia e Servizio Sociale - LM-87 / LM-88, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna	Sociology and Social Work – LM-87 / LM-88, University of Bologna
34	Sostenibilità sociale e management del welfare - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Siena	Social Sustainability and Welfare Management – LM-87, University of Siena

Source: <https://www.universitaly.it/cerca-corsi>.

Table 2: MA programmes in Social Work

	Italian name of the programme	English translation
1	Disegno e gestione degli interventi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Firenze	Planning and Management of Social Interventions – LM-87, University of Florence
2	Gestione delle politiche dei servizi sociali e multiculturalità - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo	Management of Social Policy and Multiculturalism – LM-87, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
3	Gestione delle Politiche e dei Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II"	Management of Social Policy and Social Work – LM-87, University of Naples "Federico II"
4	Gestione e innovazione dei servizi sociali, imprenditorialità sociale e management del terzo settore - LM-87, Università di PISA	Management and Innovation of Social Work, Social Entrepreneurship and Management of the Third Sector – LM-87, University of Pisa
5	Innovazione e servizio sociale - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Padova	Innovation and Social Work – LM-87, University of Padua
6	Lavoro sociale e coordinamento di servizi per immigrazione, povertà e non auto-sufficienza - LM-87, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano	Social Work and Coordination of Services for Immigration, Poverty and Non-self-sufficiency – LM-87, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan
7	Lavoro sociale e servizi per le famiglie, i minori e le comunità - LM-87, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano	Social Work and Services for Family, Minors and Communities – LM-87, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan
8	Lavoro, cittadinanza sociale, interculturalità - LM-87, Università "Ca' Foscari", Venezia	Social Work, Social Citizenship and Interculturalism – LM-87, University of Venice "Ca' Foscari"
9	Metodologia, Organizzazione e Valutazione dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Trento	Methodology, Organisation and Evaluation of Social Work – LM-87, University of Trento
10	Politiche e management per il welfare - LM-87, Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara	Welfare Policies and Management – LM-87, University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti-Pescara
11	Politiche e programmazione dei servizi alla persona - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Macerata	Policies and Planning of Personal Services – LM-87, University of Macerata
12	Politiche e servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Torino	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Turin
13	Politiche e Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Catania	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Catania
14	Politiche e servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Perugia	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Perugia

15	Politiche per l'innovazione e l'inclusione sociale - LM-87, Università per Stranieri "Dante Alighieri" di Reggio Calabria	Policies for Innovation and Social Inclusion – LM-87, University for Foreigners "Dante Alighieri, Reggio Calabria
16	Politiche sociali e servizio sociale - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale	Social Work and Policies – LM-87, University of Cassino and Southern Latium
17	Progettazione e gestione dei servizi e degli interventi sociali e educativi - LM-87, Università degli Studi dell'Aquila	Planning and Management of Social Work and Social and Education Interventions – LM-87, University of L'Aquila
18	Progettazione, gestione e valutazione dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza".	Planning, Management and Evaluation of Social Work – LM-87, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
19	Progettazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università del Salento	Planning and Management of Social Policies and Work – LM-87, University of Salento
20	Programmazione e Gestione dei Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Parma	Planning and Management of Social Work – LM-87, University of Parma
21	Programmazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Milano "Bicocca"	Planning and Management of Social Policies and Social Work – LM-87, University of Milan "Bicocca"
22	Programmazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Libera Università degli Studi "Maria SS. Assunta" – LUMSA, Roma	Planning and Management of Social Policies and Social Work – LM-87, Free University "Maria SS. Assunta" (LUMSA), Rome
23	Programmazione, amministrazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli	Planning, Administration and Management of Social Policies and Social Work – LM-87, University Sister Orsola Benincasa, Naples
24	Scienze delle Politiche e dei Servizi Sociali - LM-87, Università della Calabria	Political Sciences and of Social Work – LM-878, University of Calabria
25	Scienze Sociali per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile - LM-87, UAE - Università Kore di Enna	Social Sciences for Sustainable Development – LM-87, University Kore, Enna
26	Servizio sociale e politiche sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi del Molise	Social Work and Social Policies – LM-87, University of Molise
27	Servizio Sociale e Politiche sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Genova	Social Work and Social Policies – LM-87, University of Genoa
28	Servizio Sociale e Politiche Sociali - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Sassari	Social Work and Social Policies – LM-87, University of Sassari

29	Servizio sociale in ambiti complessi - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Verona	Social Work in Complex Contexts – LM-87, University of Verona
30	Servizio sociale, disuguaglianze e vulnerabilità sociale - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Palermo	Social Work, Inequalities and Social Vulnerability – LM-87, University of Palermo
31	Servizio sociale, politiche sociali e studi sociologici e ricerca sociale - LM-87 / LM-88, Università degli Studi di Messina	Social Work, Social Policies, and Sociological Studies and Social Research – LM-87 / LM-87, University of Messina
32	Servizio sociale, politiche sociali, programmazione e gestione dei servizi - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Trieste	Social Work, Social Policies, Planning and Management of Services – LM-87, University of Trieste
33	Sociologia e Servizio Sociale - LM-87 / LM-88, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna	Sociology and Social Work – LM-87 / LM-88, University of Bologna
34	Sostenibilità sociale e management del welfare - LM-87, Università degli Studi di Siena	Social Sustainability and Welfare Management – LM-87, University of Siena

Source: <https://www.universitaly.it/cerca-corsi>.

Table 3: PhD courses in the sociological disciplinary area (Sociology includes Social Policy as a specific discipline)

PHD	University	Department	Disciplinary areas
ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES	Milano-Bicocca	Sociologica e Ricerca Sociale	13; 14;
APPLIED DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	Trieste	Matematica, Informatica e Geoscienze	01; 02; 05; 06; 09; 13; 14;
ARTS, HISTORY, SOCIETY	Bologna	delle Arti	08; 10; 11; 14;
COMMUNICATION, MARKETS AND SOCIETY	IULM - MILANO	FACOLTÀ DI COMUNICAZIONE; FACOLTÀ DI ARTI E TURISMO; FACOLTÀ DI INTERPRETARIATO E TRADUZIONE	01; 11; 12; 13; 14;
COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND MARKETING	Roma "La Sapienza"	Comunicazione e ricerca sociale	10; 11; 13; 14;
CONTEMPORARY HUMANISM	Libera Univ. "Maria SS. Assunta"-LUMSA - ROMA	Scienze umane - comunicazione, formazione e psicologia	10; 11; 12; 14;
CRIMINOLOGY	Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	SOCIOLOGIA	13; 14;
CULTURES, LITERATURES, RIGHTS, TOURISM AND TERRITORY	SASSARI	Scienze Umanistiche e Sociali	01; 08; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;

DIRITTO E ISTITUZIONI ECONOMICO-SOCIALI: PROFILI NORMATIVI, ORGANIZZATIVI E STORICO-EVOLUTIVI	"Parthenope" di NAPOLI	GIURISPRUDENZA	12; 13; 14;
DIRITTO ED ECONOMIA	Molise	Economia	07; 11; 12; 13; 14;
DISUGUAGLIANZE, DIFFERENZE, PARTECIPAZIONE	Palermo	POLO TERRITORIALE UNIVERSITARIO DI TRAPANI	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
DOTTORATO DI INTERESSE NAZIONALE IN DESIGN PER IL MADE IN ITALY: IDENTITA', INNOVAZIONE E SOSTENIBILITA'	CAMPANIA – "L. VANVITELLI"	ARCHITETTURA E DISEGNO INDUSTRIALE	01; 03; 05; 07; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; ;
DOTTORATO DI INTERESSE NAZIONALE IN LIFE COURSE RESEARCH	Firenze	Statistica, Informatica e Applicazioni "G. Parenti" (DISIA)	05; 06; 11; 13; 14;
DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN APPRENDIMENTO E INNOVAZIONE NEI CONTESTI SOCIALI E DI LAVORO	SIENA	Scienze Sociali, Politiche e Cognitive	09; 11; 12; 14;
DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES	SIENA	Scienze Sociali, Politiche e Cognitive	10; 11; 13; 14;
ECOLOGIA DEI SISTEMI	PIEMONTE ORIENTALE	Giurisprudenza e Scienze Politiche, Economiche e Sociali	10; 11; 12; 14;

CULTURALI E ISTITUZIONALI			
ECONOMICS	Politecnica delle MARCHE	SCIENZE ECONOMICHE E SOCIALI	13; 14;
ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS	CHIETI-PESCARA	Studi Socio-Economici, Gestionali e Statistici	11; 13; 14;
EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH. SOCIETY AND TEACHING-LEARNING STUDIES.	SALERNO	Studi Politici e Sociali	01; 10; 11; 13; 14;
EDUCAZIONE ALLA LETTURA, EFFETTI E BENEFICI DELLA LETTURA E DELLA LETTURA AD ALTA VOCE	PERUGIA	FILOSOFIA, SCIENZE SOCIALI, UMANE E DELLA FORMAZIONE	10; 11; 14;
ETICA DELLA COMUNICAZIONE, DELLA RICERCA SCIENTIFICA E DELL'INNOVAZIONE TECNOLOGICA	PERUGIA	FILOSOFIA, SCIENZE SOCIALI, UMANE E DELLA FORMAZIONE	01; 03; 05; 06; 07; 08; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
EUROPEAN STUDIES FOR INNOVATION	TERAMO	FACOLTA' DI SCIENZE POLITICHE	11; 12; 13; 14;
FILOSOFIA E SCIENZE UMANE	MILANO	Filosofia "Piero Martinetti"	10; 11; 14;
FRONTIER SCIENCES IN SUSTAINABILITY, DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL	Stranieri di PERUGIA	SCIENZE UMANE E SOCIALI INTERNAZIONALI	08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;

[L
COOPERATION](#)

GENDER STUDIES	BARI	Ricerca e Innovazione Umanistica	06; 08; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
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GLOBAL STUDIES. ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND LAW	Urbino Carlo Bo	Economia, Società, Politica (DESP)	12; 13; 14;
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GLOBAL STUDIES. INSTITUTIONS, RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY	MACERATA	Scienze politiche, della comunicazione e delle relazioni internazionali	09; 11; 12; 13; 14;
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HEALTH AND LONGEVITY	BERGAMO	Ingegneria gestionale, dell'informazione e della produzione	05; 06; 09; 11; 12; 13; 14;
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HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	SALENTO	Scienze Umane e Sociali	11; 12; 14;
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INNOVAZIONE INDUSTRIALE / INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION	TRENTO	Ingegneria e Scienza dell'Informazione	01; 02; 03; 06; 08; 09; 11; 13; 14;
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INNOVAZIONE, SVILUPPO E BENESSERE PER L'INDIVIDUO E LE ORGANIZZAZIO NI	Libera Università "Maria SS. Assunta"-LUMSA - ROMA	Scienze umane - comunicazione, formazione e psicologia	11; 13; 14;
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INTELLIGENZA ARTIFICIALE (DOTTORATO NAZIONALE)	PISA	INFORMATICA	01; 02; 05; 06; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
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LEARNING SCIENCES AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES	MODENA e REGGIO EMILIA	Chirurgico, medico, odontoiatrico e di scienze morfologiche con interesse trapiantologico, oncologico e di medicina rigenerativa	01; 02; 05; 06; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; ;
LEGALITÀ, CULTURE POLITICHE E DEMOCRAZIA	PERUGIA	SCIENZE POLITICHE	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE	BERGAMO	Scienze aziendali	13; 14;
MEDICAL HUMANITIES AND WELFARE POLICIES	FOGGIA	SCIENZE MEDICHE E CHIRURGICHE	06; 07; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; ;
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES. HISTORY, LAW & ECONOMICS	Libera Università "Maria SS. Assunta"-LUMSA - ROMA	GIURISPRUDENZA ECONOMIA COMUNICAZIONE	04; 05; 11; 12; 13; 14;
MIGRAZIONI, DIFFERENZE, GIUSTIZIA SOCIALE	PALERMO	CIR MIGRARE	06; 07; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
MODELLI E CONTESTI EDUCATIVI: SPORT, INCLUSIONE E TECNOLOGIE	CASSINO e LAZIO MERIDIONALE	Scienze Umane, Sociali e della Salute	05; 06; 11; 14;
MUTAMENTO SOCIALE E POLITICO	FIRENZE	Scienze Politiche e Sociali (DSPS)	11; 12; 14;
NATIONAL PHD IN PEACE STUDIES	ROMA "La Sapienza"	Storia Antropologia Religioni Arte Spettacolo	05; 06; 07; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
ORDINE GIURIDICO ED	CATANZARO	Giurisprudenza, Economia e Sociologia	12; 13; 14;

ECONOMICO EUROPEO			
PATRIMONIO CULTURALE TRA REALE E ARTIFICIALE. INNOVAZIONE E SOSTENIBILITA'	UNICUSANO - Telematica Roma	SCIENZE UMANISTICHE, MOTORIE E DELLA FORMAZIONE	10; 11; 12; 14;
POLITICA E COMUNICAZIONE-POLICOM	SALERNO	Scienze Politiche e della Comunicazione	01; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
POLITICA, CULTURA E SVILUPPO	della CALABRIA	Scienze Politiche e Sociali - DiSPeS	10; 11; 13; 14;
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	BOLOGNA	Scienze Politiche e Sociali	13; 14;
POLITICS	Luiss Guido Carli	SCIENZE POLITICHE	11; 12; 14;
PROCESSI FORMATIVI, MODELLI TEORICO-TRASFORMATIVI E METODI DI RICERCA APPLICATI AL TERRITORIO	CATANIA	Scienze della Formazione	06; 10; 11; 12; 14;
PSICOLOGIA SOCIALE, DELLO SVILUPPO E RICERCA EDUCATIVA	ROMA "La Sapienza"	Psicologia dei processi di sviluppo e socializzazione	11; 14;
PSICOLOGIA, PEDAGOGIA, LINGUISTICA E STUDI DI GENERE	Napoli Federico II	Studi Umanistici	10; 11; 14;
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE.	BOLOGNA	Scienze Aziendali	12; 13; 14;

MANAGEMENT AND POLICY			
REGGIO CHILDHOOD STUDIES	MODENA e REGGIO EMILIA	Educazione e scienze umane	01; 05; 09; 10; 11; 12; 14;
RELIGION, CULTURE AND PUBLIC LIFE	PADOVA	FILOSOFIA, SOCIOLOGIA, PEDAGOGIA E PSICOLOGIA APPLICATA (FISPPA)	11; 12; 14;
RICERCA E INNOVAZIONE SOCIALE	CAGLIARI	Scienze Politiche e Sociali	11; 12; 13; 14;
RISORSE PER LA NUOVA PA: PERSONE E DATI	MILANO-BICOCCA	GIURISPRUDENZA (School of Law)	01; 02; 04; 06; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SALUTE, MEDICINA E WELFARE NELLA SOCIETÀ DIGITALE	CATANZARO	Scienze della Salute	06; 09; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	CHIETI-PESCARA	DIPARTIMENTO DI TECNOLOGIE INNOVATIVE IN MEDICINA & ODONTOIATRIA	02; 03; 04; 05; 06; 08; 09; 13; 14;
SCIENZA POLITICA E SOCIOLOGIA	Scuola Normale Superiore di PISA	Classe di Scienze politico-sociali	13; 14;
SCIENZE AGRARIE	SASSARI	Agraria	02; 05; 07; 14;
SCIENZE AGROALIMENTARI E AMBIENTALI / AGRIFOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	TRENTO	Centro Agricoltura, Alimenti, Ambiente	02; 03; 04; 05; 07; 08; 09; 12; 14;

SCIENZE COGNITIVE	TRENTO	Psicologia e Scienze Cognitive	01; 06; 09; 10; 11; 14;
SCIENZE COGNITIVE	MESSINA	Scienze Cognitive, Psicologiche, Pedagogiche e degli Studi Culturali	01; 06; 07; 09; 10; 11; 13; 14;
SCIENZE DELLA SALUTE E DELL'AMBIENTE	L'AQUILA	Medicina clinica, sanità pubblica, scienze della vita e dell'ambiente	01; 02; 03; 05; 06; 07; 11; 14;
SCIENZE DELLA SALUTE: SOCIOLOGIA, SCIENZE INFERMIERISTE E SCIENZE DELLA RIABILITAZIONE	TORINO	Culture, politica e società	06; 11; 14;
SCIENZE E PRATICHE DELLA COMUNICAZIONE	PAVIA	SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI	09; 10; 12; 13; 14;
SCIENZE EDUCATIVE E SOCIALI	Libera Università di BOLZANO	FACOLTA' DI SCIENZE DELLA FORMAZIONE	01; 02; 05; 10; 11; 13; 14;
SCIENZE FILOSOFICHE, SOCIALI, DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURALE E AMBIENTALE	PARMA	Discipline Umanistiche Sociali e delle Imprese Culturali	10; 11; 12; 14;
SCIENZE GIURIDICHE E POLITICHE	Univ. Studi GUGLIELMO MARCONI - Telematica	SCIENZE GIURIDICHE E POLITICHE	11; 12; 14;
SCIENZE GIURIDICHE E SOCIALI PER L'INNOVAZIONE	CAMPANIA – “L. VANVITELLI”	SCIENZE POLITICHE	09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SCIENZE POLITICHE	ROMA TRE	Scienze Politiche	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;

SCIENZE POLITICHE	PISA	SCIENZE POLITICHE	11; 13; 14;
SCIENZE POLITICHE	CATANIA	Scienze Politiche e Sociali	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SCIENZE POLITICHE	MESSINA	Scienze Politiche e Giuridiche	10; 11; 12; 14;
SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI PER LA SICUREZZA E LO SVILUPPO - SPSSS	BARI	Scienze Politiche	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SCIENZE SOCIALI	GENOVA	Scienze della formazione (DISFOR)	11; 12; 13; 14;
SCIENZE SOCIALI E STATISTICHE	Napoli Federico II	Scienze Sociali	11; 13; 14;
SCIENZE UMANE	VERONA	Scienze Umane	10; 11; 14;
SCIENZE UMANE PER L'INNOVAZIONE, L'INCLUSIONE E LA SOSTENIBILITÀ	LINK CAMPUS	SCIENZE UMANE	01; 06; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SCUOLA DI DOTTORATO IN SCIENZE SOCIALI ED ECONOMICHE	ROMA "La Sapienza"	Scienze sociali ed economiche	09; 11; 13; 14;
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE	Bocconi MILANO	SCUOLA DI DOTTORATO	13; 14;
SOCIAL SCIENCES	PADOVA	FILOSOFIA, SOCIOLOGIA, PEDAGOGIA E PSICOLOGIA APPLICATA (FISPPA)	11; 13; 14;

SOCIAL SCIENCES	CHIETI-PESCARA	Scienze giuridiche e sociali	11; 12; 14;
SOCIAL WORK AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES	Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	SOCIOLOGIA	11; 12; 13; 14;
SOCIETÀ IN MUTAMENTO: POLITICHE, DIRITTI E SICUREZZA	TUSCIA	Economia, Ingegneria, Società e Impresa	09; 10; 12; 14;
SOCIOLOGIA E METODOLOGIA DELLA RICERCA SOCIALE	MILANO	Scienze sociali e politiche	13; 14;
SOCIOLOGIA E RICERCA SOCIALE	TRENTO	Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale	09; 11; 13; 14;
SOCIOLOGIA E RICERCA SOCIALE	BOLOGNA	Sociologia e Diritto dell'Economia	14;
SOCIOLOGIA ECONOMICA, GESTIONE DELL'ORGANIZZAZIONE E STUDI DEL LAVORO (ESOL)	MILANO	Scienze sociali e politiche	11; 12; 13; 14;
SOCIOLOGIA, ORGANIZZAZIONI, CULTURE	Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	SOCIOLOGIA	11; 13; 14;
SOSTENIBILITÀ AMBIENTALE E BENESSERE (ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING)	FERRARA	Studi umanistici	04; 05; 06; 07; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14;

STORIA E CULTURE DELL'EUROPA	ROMA "La Sapienza"	Storia Antropologia Religioni Arte Spettacolo	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
STUDI DI GENERE	PALERMO	Giurisprudenza	06; 11; 12; 14;
STUDI INTERNAZIONALI	"L'Orientale" di NAPOLI	SCIENZE UMANE E SOCIALI	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
STUDI POLITICI	ROMA "La Sapienza"	Scienze politiche	10; 11; 13; 14;
STUDI STORICI DAL MEDIOEVO ALL'ETÀ CONTEMPORANEA	TERAMO	FACOLTA' DI SCIENZE POLITICHE	10; 11; 13; 14;
STUDI STORICI, GEOGRAFICI E ANTROPOLOGICI	PADOVA	SCIENZE STORICHE, GEOGRAFICHE E DELL'ANTICHITA' (DiSSGeA)	04; 10; 11; 13; 14;
STUDI SULLA CRIMINALITA' ORGANIZZATA	MILANO	Studi internazionali, giuridici e storico-politici	10; 11; 12; 13; 14;
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	I.U.S.S. - PAVIA	Scienze, Tecnologie e Società	02; 03; 04; 05; 06; 07; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14
TEORIA E RICERCA EDUCATIVA E SOCIALE	ROMA TRE	Scienze della Formazione	01; 10; 11; 13; 14;
URBEUR-STUDI URBANI	MILANO-BICOCCA	SOCIOLOGIA E RICERCA SOCIALE	08; 11; 13; 14;

Table 4: Professional associations specifically focusing on social work in Italy (in alphabetical order)

ASit – Servizio Sociale su Internet

Social Service on the Internet (ASit) was formed by a group of people who met and got to know each other through the Internet. Anyone can participate: register, support, contribute, share. ASit aims to disseminate a culture of Social Service, sharing experiences, reflections, documents (website: <https://www.serviziosociale.com/>).

Ass.N.A.S. – Associazione Nazionale Assistenti Sociali

The National Association for Social Assistants (Ass.N.A.S.) aims to connect social workers, study professional issues, protect the interests of the profession, create and promote further education courses. Since 1948, Ass.N.A.S. has been at the side of professional social workers and a member by right (Member Organisation) for Italy in the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), which brings together the representative associations of social workers at European, non-European and world level (website: <https://assnas.it/>).

Ce.S. di S.S. – Centro Studi di Servizio Sociale

The Research Centre on Social Service (Ce.S.S.) was established in Bologna in 1989, promoted by a group of experienced Social Service professionals and Social Workers, as a non-profit association for the study, research, documentation and training of those working in the social area (website: <https://www.cesdiss.org/>).

CNOAS – Consiglio Nazionale Ordine degli Assistenti Sociali

The National Council of the Order of Social Assistants (CNOAS) was established by Law No. 84 of 23 March 1993. The same law made it compulsory to be enrolled in the professional register in order to be able to practise the profession of social worker either on a self-employed or employed basis. The Order gathers the professional community and is its expression, protecting both the registered professionals and the interests of those who – as users of social services or clients of professional social workers – must be guaranteed the provision and quality of the service provided. The Order has the legal status of a non-profit public body, subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Justice (website: <https://cnoas.org/>).

Fondazione Nazionale Assistenti Sociali (FNAS)

The National Foundation of Social Assistants (FNAS) was established in 2016 on the initiative of the National Council of the Order of Social Assistants – a nonprofit public body that participates in it and guides its management – with the aim of creating a dedicated participatory foundation to enhance the profession of social worker, as outlined by the Ordinary Law of 23 March 1993, no. 84 and subsequent regulations. The Foundation operates through the development and implementation of projects, lasting several years, also supported by contributions from the National Council of the Order of Social Workers (CNOAS) while also securing various forms of external public and private funding. At present, not only the National Council of the Order participates in the Foundation, but also the Regional Councils of the Order of Social Workers of Liguria, Trentino-Alto Adige, Tuscany, Umbria and Valle d'Aosta (website: <https://www.fondazioneassistentisociali.com/>).

Istituto Regionale per gli Studi di Servizio Sociale (I.R.S.Se.S.)

The Regional Institute for the Study of Social Service aims to continue education and training of social, socio-health and educational operators in the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. It also promotes studies, research, conferences and cultural initiatives related to the development of social services and conducts social education initiatives according to regional guidelines. Finally, the Institute offers consulting and supervision within the scope of the Regional social services and participates, in collaboration with the university structures of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, in the training of social workers (website: <http://www.irsses.it/chi-siamo/finalita/>).

Soc.I.S. Società Italiana di Servizio Sociale

The Italian Society of Social Service (Soc.I.S.), in line with the most recent international definition approved by the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Federation of Schools of Social Work, promotes the scientific and disciplinary development of Social Work in close connection with professional practice, from an interdisciplinary and research perspective, as well as from an international perspective (website: <https://www.sociss.it/associazione/>).

Sunas – Sindacato Unitario Nazionale Assistenti Sociali

The United Trade Union for Social Assistants (SUNAS) is a non-profit professional trade union association that provides assistance and protection services to its members. SUNAS cooperates with other organisations and associations: trade unions, professional organisations, citizens' groups, etc. (website: <https://www.sunas.it/>).

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About the authors

Eduardo Barberis is a full professor of Sociology at the University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy, and founding partner of Co.R.A. Lab, a university consultancy spin-off. His research interests range from local incorporation of migrants to the multi-level governance of welfare policy.

Leonardo Catena is lecturer at the University of Pisa, Italy, and founding partner of Co.R.A. Lab. His main research fields focus on local welfare, elderly care, socio-health policies, and education policy.

Angela Genova is associate professor of Sociology at the University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy, and founding partner of Co.R.A. Lab. She conducts research in the field of social and health policies, and supports local organizations and authorities in shared governance processes, planning and evaluating welfare services and policies.

Federico Rossi, PhD in Global Studies, is a postdoc at the University of Urbino Carlo Bo, working on a project focussed on the multi-level analysis of (under)achievement in education. He teaches “Sociology of social inclusion and exclusion” in the MA in Psychology program. His primary research interest lies in the sociology of migration.

The authors bear full responsibility for the contents of this publication.

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DIFIS - German Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research

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Duisburg Office: Institute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ), Forsthausweg 2, 47057

Duisburg

Bremen Office: SOCIUM Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy, Mary-Somerville-

Straße 5, 28359 Bremen

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