

Module: Social Policy in the European Union

Lecturer: Prof. Katarzyna Głębicka

Semester: Winter/Summer

Hours: 15

Type: Consultation

Credit: Essey and discussion

ECTS: 6

The lecture consists of a systematic presentation of main European ideologies which are present in Poland, also being adapted in a critical way. Over the last century the latter is created by German, British, French, and Polish traditions of social policy.

The next lectures concerning doctrines of social policy, focuses on two main ways of viewing social problems. The first, "technical" one answers the question: which means and methods are to be used in order to solve a particular question? The second is about why and according to which values the state, local self-government and independent organisations are engaged in improving social conditions? The second problem is more complicated and mixed with humanist thought. It is involved in plurality of views, which is present in every society. Here will be discuss functions of doctrines of social policy (diagnosing, evaluation, unmasking, ordering, radiation, confronting of values, producing of utopian illusions). We point at values like justice, equality, freedom, solidarity, and common good which determine people's attitudes and are fundamental for social policy models.

In the second part of lectures, *Organisation of social policy*, we try to look at social policy through the glass of ubiquitous bureaucratic activities. We attempt to show national and international structures of social policy which emerged in 20th century parallelly to the science of social policy. It answers social needs of large and small communities. An ordered knowledge concerning these structures becomes an integral part of the science of social policy. It will discuss few groups of social policy actors: UN, the Council of Europe and the EU agencies with special and contribution funds targeted at social policy, as well as social competences of self-government and independent organisations. The section on UN covers activities ILO, UNESCO, WHO, FAO, IMF, IBRD and such programs as UNICEF, UNDP, Habitat, UNHCR, UNDCP, WFP or UNFPA.

We have two European-wide international organisations—the Council of Europe, and the EU. We describe their significance and activities, focusing on gradually developed legal standards and how they relate to European social reality.

Contents of lectures

I. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL POLICY

1. Social policy as an activity and a branch of science
2. Social question as a subject of the science of social policy
3. Doctrines of social policy

II. ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL POLICY

1. The United Nations as an actor of global social policy
2. Institutions of European social policy
3. European models of social policy
4. European structural funds
5. Social rights
6. Social questions in Europe