

**University of the Peloponnese**  
Department of Social and Educational Policy  
C o r i n t h - G r e e c e

**Postgraduate Programme**

**M. Sc. in European Social Policy**

**2014-15**

**Outline:**

This is the one and only postgraduate course in Greece dedicated specifically to “European Social Policy”. The program’s **commitments** include a wide range of principal objectives:

- A critical analysis of the discourse in the academic fields of European, Global and Comparative Social Policy contributing to the understanding of the major relevant policy aspects and, today, of the crisis’ impact on the national social protection systems following the growing pressures of globalisation
- A multi and inter-disciplinary dimensional approach to social policy combined with a cross-national comparative analysis of the current social reforms, exploring the role of supranational institutions and adjustments (EU, Council of Europe, OECD, ILO, etc.) towards the Europeanization of social policies and the globalization of social policy
- A wide understanding of social policy options available today by learning different policy dimensions and by studying the institutional, political and economic EU arrangements related to social policy making and implementation by the key European actors
- A thorough examination of specific common or differing social problems shared by individual countries and the relevant issues involved in further European integration and in enhancing the field of European Social Policy

- An effective provision of abilities for social research with a European perspective and of skills in a range of professional issues engaged in implementing social policy and in realising the European project, leading to potential employment either in teaching, research or further study for a PhD or in a wide range of national and international institutions (Social Policy Organisations in Greece, European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, OECD, ILO, EU lobbying organisations, consultancies, etc.)

### **Aim:**

The central **aim** of this M. Sc. course is to provide a balanced combination of academic knowledge, research perspectives and career opportunities. Towards this complex and ambitious aim highly contribute:

- The competency of the distinctive features of the program with other relevant courses in UK and continental Europe Universities established since the 1980s, granting its international perspective and academic visibility
- The international team of the highly esteemed academic experts, who join the program, comes from different disciplines (sociology, economics, political science, history, law, etc.) and, moreover, from a wide range of European Universities (University of Athens, Panteion University, Economic University of Athens, University of the Peloponnese as well as the London School of Economics, University of Barcelona, University of Bath, University of Kent, University of Milan, University of Lausanne).

### **C o n t e n t:**

The content of the program of study combines theoretical and methodological issues in the area of European social policy analysis, topics related to economic, comparative and evaluation aspects of social policy, applications in a range of European social policies and analyses for the future of the European Social Model. This is implemented by a wide spectrum of topics that are structured around the following major six thematic circles:

- I. Social Policy Research Methodology
- II. Social Policy Theory
- III. European Social Policy Analysis
- IV. Economic and Comparative Social Policy Analysis
- V. European Social Policies
- VI. The prospects of the European Social Model

## 1st Semester

The first semester provides

- the study of social policy research methodology for both quantitative and qualitative analysis,
- an analysis of the field of European Social Policy Analysis including a social policy theoretical basis and a historical/institutional/political/economic analysis of European Social Policy

The purpose of the first semester is to lay the foundations of the course for the students. By the end of the semester students will be expected to have acquired knowledge of the research methodology and of theory of social policy as well as an understanding of the historical, institutional, political and economic background to European Social Policy.

## 2nd Semester

The second semester unfolds

- the Social Policy area in the fields of economic and comparative analysis,
- aspects of European social policies analyzing the European policies adjusted in employment, industrial relations, social insurance, health, social assistance, immigration, social inclusion, education.
- the challenges and prospects of the European Social Model appreciating the future of European and Global Social Policy

The second semester provides students with skills in analyzing, comparing and evaluating European social policies and their implementation in specific fields. Particular attention is paid to the scope for politico-economic harmonization in the social policy field and to the appreciation of the impact of the 'new' European Social Model towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century and during the current global crisis.

## Period of study

The period of study lasts 18 months. It includes two semesters of taught courses (during the first academic year) and one to two semesters for students to complete their M.Sc. dissertation

(second year) under continuous academic supervision. This period can be extended according to the regulations of the Study Guide of the Department of Social and Educational Policy.

### **Structure**

This is an M. Sc. programme awarded after completing 90 ECTS credits. The students are required to attend successfully the courses in the first academic year (two semesters), and subsequently to submit their M.Sc. Dissertation in the second (third or fourth semester). Each semester consists of 15 teaching weeks and corresponds to 30 credits. The Dissertation is equivalent to 30 credits.

<b>Academic Staff</b>	
Gosta Esping-Andersen	University of Pompeu Fabra Barcelona
Kevin Featherstone, Professor	London School of Economics
Maurizio Ferrera, Professor	University of Milan
Peter Taylor-Gooby, Professor	University of Kent
Giuliano Bonoli, Professor	University of Lausanne
Thanassis Katsis, Professor	University of the Peloponnese
Savas Robolis, Professor	Panteion University
Th. Sakellariopoulos, Professor	Panteion University
Yannis Sakellis, Professor	Panteion University
Anne Tsatsaroni, Professor	University of the Peloponnese
Dimitris Venieris, Associate Professor	University of the Peloponnese
Efi Gazi, Associate Professor	University of the Peloponnese
Yannis Kouzis, Professor	Panteion University
Manos Matsaganis, Associate Professor	Economic University of Athens
Despina Papadopoulou, Assoc. Professor	Panteion University
Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, Assoc. Professor	University of Athens
Nikos Koutsiaras, Assistant Professor	University of Athens
Ch. Economou, Assistant Professor	Panteion University
Andreas Feronas, Assistant Professor	University of the Peloponnese
Ema Carmel, Senior Lecturer	University of Bath
Theo Papadopoulos, Lecturer	University of Bath
Kostas Dimoulas, Assistant Professor	Panteion University
<u>Coordinator of the course:</u> <b>Dimitris Venieris, University of the Peloponnese</b>	