

For further information refer to:

Fondazione G. Brodolini

Via Goito, 39 - 00185 Rome

Tel. +39 06/44249625 Fax: +39 06/44249565

economialavoro@fondazionebrodolini.it

Contents

UPS AND DOWNS OF ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES – PART I

Francesco Giubileo, Gianluca Scarano, *Will We Score in Active Labour Market Policies?*

Silvia Donà, Gianluca Scarano, *From the Youth Guarantee to the Employability Guarantee: The Slow Path of Active Labour Policies*

Cristina Lion, Katia Santomieri, Paola Stocco, *The Reinforced Youth Guarantee: First Evidence on its Implementation*

Massimo Resce, *Investing in Labour Policies: Italy in an International Comparison*

Sante Marchetti, Lucia Valente, *The State-Regions Relationship in the Management of Labour Market Policies*

Tiziano Barone, Eleonora Sposato, Luca Candido, *The Veneto Lavoro Model: Insights into Regional Labour Governance*

Emiliano Mandrone, Manuel Marocco, *Strengthening the Network of Employment Services to Improve Labour Market Transparency*

Francesco Giubileo, *The Role of Employment Centre Employees: From Counsellors to Case Management*

Annamaria D'Alessio, *Workforce Strengthening in Italy's Employment Centres*

CONCEPTS, HISTORY, AND DEVELOPMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTALIST POLITICAL CULTURES

Paolo Borioni, *Introduction*

Paolo Borioni, Domenico Romano, *The Environmentalist Political Culture*

Alessandro Favale, *Sustainable Development: Evolution and Criticalities*

ESSAYS

Francesco Garibaldo, *The Political Issue of Commodification Choices in European Policies*

BOOK REVIEWS

C. Zappia, *L'incertezza in economia* (by Anna Maria Carabelli)

A.M. Carabelli, *John Maynard Keynes: il ragionamento economico. Complessità, incertezza, felicità, dilemmi tragici* (by Carlo Cristiano)

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

by the Editorial Staff

Abstracts

FROM THE YOUTH GUARANTEE TO THE EMPLOYABILITY GUARANTEE: THE SLOW PATH OF ACTIVE LABOUR POLICIES

Silvia Donà, Gianluca Scarano

There are many critical issues affecting the Workers' Employability Guarantee Programme (GOL), the implementation and outcomes of which remain uncertain, and will take time to be properly evaluated. To some extent, these challenges can be explained by previous reform trajectories that have shaped Italy's active labour market policies. This study, adopting a descriptive approach, aims to reconstruct the most recent institutional developments in this field. In particular, it considers three significant reforms that preceded the GOL programme: the introduction of the Youth Guarantee, the adoption of the Jobs Act, and the trajectory of the so-called "Citizenship Income". Following this reconstruction, the GOL programme is examined with a focus on aspects that are sometimes overlooked in the debate, such as its relationship with minimum service standards and the organisational capacities of Public Employment Services (PES), whose structural weaknesses did not originate with this programme, but should be viewed within the broader context of past reforms.

Keywords: labour market policies, minimum service standards, GOL programme.

THE REINFORCED YOUTH GUARANTEE: FIRST EVIDENCE ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Cristina Lion, Katia Santomieri, Paola Stocco

Supporting youth employment remains a major challenge for policy makers, and active labour market policies represent a key tool to combat inactivity and unemployment. This paper presents a critical analysis of the most recent strategies specifically devoted to young people, developed at EU and national level. Starting from the main labour market indicators, critical aspects and emerging needs of young people are highlighted. Then, we analyse the recent Recommendation on the Reinforced Youth Guarantee adopted by the Council of the European Union in 2020, highlighting its strategic design, and identifying aspects of continuity/discontinuity compared with the previous programming. Finally, we explore the implementation of the recommendation by looking at the regional planning in the framework of ESF+. In the context of a weak and uncertain economic framework, young people remain a key target group that policy makers must prioritise.

Keywords: NEET, active labour policies, Youth Guarantee.

INVESTING IN LABOUR POLICIES: ITALY IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

Massimo Resce

This article aims to analyse, through an international comparison, the evolution of labour market policies in Italy from the Great Recession of 2008 to 2020, the year in which the economic and social shock caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the subsequent lockdown measures adopted by various governments took place. The comparison reveals that Italy aligns with the EU average in terms of overall labour market policy expenditure. However, significant differences emerge in the composition of spending across employment services, passive labour market policies, and active labour market policies. Regarding expenditure on employment services, Italy presents a distinctive feature: its spending in this area is the lowest, amounting to only 0.03% of GDP, compared with the EU average of 0.2%. The Italian model appears unbalanced towards passive labour market policies, with a share of expenditure (2.59%) exceeding the EU average (2.06%), while active labour market policies account for only 0.22% of GDP, significantly below the EU average of 0.61%.

By examining spending trends by policy type, this study highlights the sharp increase in expenditure recorded in the year of the pandemic as a response by States to the economic crisis, effectively reversing the longstanding disinvestment trend in certain policies observed since 2008.

Keywords: labour policies, active labour market policies, passive labour market policies, employment services.

THE STATE-REGIONS RELATIONSHIP IN THE MANAGEMENT OF LABOUR MARKET POLICIES

Sante Marchetti, Lucia Valente

The paper explores the organisation of Public Employment Services (PES) from two perspectives. First, it examines PES governance models at European level, offering a comparative study that analyses not only the role of institutional actors, but also the different role played by the social partners in the labour market. Second, it focuses on the Italian case, starting from the reform of Title V of the Constitution, which established a multilevel governance framework between the State and the Regions, up to the most recent regulatory changes aimed at overcoming the territorial gaps that characterise our country.

Keywords: Public Employment Services, European governance, labour market actors, regionalism, regional autonomy.

THE VENETO LAVORO MODEL: INSIGHTS INTO REGIONAL LABOUR GOVERNANCE

Tiziano Barone, Eleonora Sposato, Luca Candido

The assignment of public employment service responsibilities to the Regions has represented a significant challenge in terms of rethinking organisational processes and of harmonising the management and delivery of services. The aim of this paper is to illustrate how the choices made in Veneto have led to the development of a mature operational model, capable of overcoming approaches based on a strong segmentation of users – ineffectively tested in the past –, as well as of achieving a universal, personalised, and sustainable service offer.

A cornerstone of this model is the relationship between the user (whether a jobseeker or an employer) and the job centre counsellor, further strengthened by the introduction of two dedicated roles: the case manager and the account manager, who can individually and strategically manage the full range of services provided to their respective users. Moreover, the close cooperation between public service providers and a widely distributed network of accredited private providers ensures the effective and consistent delivery of services to a broad audience of potential users across the entire region.

Keywords: Public Employment Services, labour market, case management, active labour market policies.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO IMPROVE LABOUR MARKET TRANSPARENCY

Emiliano Mandrone, Manuel Marocco

This paper presents the latest available INAPP-PLUS data (2022) on job search channels used by both employed and unemployed individuals. For the employed, a synthetic indicator of job quality has been developed, taking into account, among other factors, job stability and pay levels across different channels. Regarding the unemployed, the analysis focuses on the following topics: job search strategies, user characteristics by channel, the impact of e-recruitment, and specialisation in job search strategies across different groups and variables (white vs. blue-collar workers, small vs. large companies, gender, and geographical area).

Findings from the INAPP survey highlight significant asymmetries between individuals with and without informal or professional networks. These distortions in the job matching process reduce system efficiency, and impose costs on society as a whole, lowering the return on investment in education (brain drain). To address these challenges, in the second part of the essay, we propose policy recommendations to strengthen the link between hiring incentives and measures to combat undeclared work. In other words, we suggest introducing a scheme that ties hiring incentives to a transparent selection process. Implicitly, this mechanism would also contribute to enhancing the information available to the public employment service network – an unresolved issue within Italy's labour intermediation system.

Keywords: active labour market policies, job search channels, hiring incentives, undeclared work, employment services.

THE ROLE OF EMPLOYMENT CENTRE EMPLOYEES: FROM COUNSELLORS TO CASE MANAGEMENT

Francesco Giubileo

At the international level, there is no official recognition of the role of employment centre operators, nor are there clearly defined career paths. In Italy, with the adoption of the term “navigator”, the issue has returned to the political spotlight and to the debate on public employment service reforms. This paper provides the reader with an overview of the competencies of professionals working in employment centres, drawing on an analysis by the European Commission regarding the role of the counsellor. It will then present a university programme in Germany, designed for professionals working within the Federal Employment Agency. Finally, the focus will shift to the role of the navigator in both Italy and the USA.

Keywords: counsellor; navigator; case manager; employment centre operator; active labour policies.

WORKFORCE STRENGTHENING IN ITALY'S EMPLOYMENT CENTRES

Annamaria D'Alessio

The need to manage significant national and European policies at local level has led to the enhancement/renewal of staff employed in Employment Centres, an essential process to overcome the structural gap that has persisted since the decentralisation of employment services to the local level. After several attempts, the strengthening of Employment Centres can be considered almost completed with the implementation of the Extraordinary Plan for the Strengthening of Employment Centres and Active Labour Policies, adopted through Ministerial Decree no. 74/2019, and subsequently amended by Ministerial Decree no. 59/2020. The goal was to improve the performance of Employment Centres by hiring new staff, specifically trained to effectively assist beneficiaries of anti-poverty measures.

Keywords: labour policies, employment services, Employment Centres, strengthening of Employment Centres.

INTRODUCTION

Paolo Borioni

This text introduces the current series on environmentalist cultures: their formation, growth, and current developments, with a forward-looking perspective. In this introduction, in addition to providing a conceptual clarification and a periodisation, the focus is primarily on the fact that the issue of safeguarding the planet, in many versions of environmentalist culture, tends to intertwine with the social issue, particularly with equality. This is not merely a matter of ethical and social justice but stems from the very causes of environmental and climate degradation, as well as the possible solutions and the social consensus necessary to implement them.

Keywords: climate, environmental policies, environmentalist cultures, equality.

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST POLITICAL CULTURE

Paolo Borioni, Domenico Romano

Nowadays environmentalism is one of the most significant vectors for mobilising public opinion, especially in advanced capitalist countries, and, demographically, among younger people. Its distinctiveness lies in considering the human being as ineluctably connected with the rest of the environment in a unity whose equilibrium must be respected. Historically, environmentalists believe that human action is not respecting such equilibrium at all, causing major problems in the present and for the future.

This article aims to briefly reconstruct both the basic ideas that characterise environmentalism, and its historical development. The analysis will focus on the development path of environmentalism, which was triggered by the reflections of experts and scientists, and then evolved as a grassroots movement in civil society. Today environmentalism is a major player in politics, capable of influencing the manifestoes of all parties, as well as the actions of governments. The final section will illustrate a concrete case of environmentalist action from a recent political experience in Sweden.

Keywords: environmentalism, ecology, pollution, eco-activism, sustainability, ecosocialism, green economy, globalisation, Rio Protocol, biodiversity, Kyoto, COP, Fridays for Future.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: EVOLUTION AND CRITICALITIES

Alessandro Favale

Sustainable development is our present. With Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all international and national plans must take into account the sustainability of their activities. Yet the concept has much deeper roots on the international stage than many might assume. Major international climate conferences – such as the Brundtland Commission, the Rio Conference, and even the more recent COPs – have all significantly shaped this idea. However, few are aware of how the North/South divide, along with the work of the Brandt Commission in the 1960s, effectively contributed to the development of the multidimensional concept we know today. Its multidimensionality allows for various interpretations – one of which is promoted by the UN and soon after embraced by the EU through the Green Deal. Criticism of this international framework has grown over the past decade, with many denouncing the failure of the SDGs, and calling for more concrete action. With its own adjustments, Social Democracy too is facing criticism, and offering new proposals.

Keywords: sustainability, sustainable development, SDGs, international conferences, Global North/Global South, Social Democracy, criticalities.

THE POLITICAL ISSUE OF THE COMMODIFICATION CHOICES IN EUROPEAN POLICIES

Francesco Garibaldi

The book reviewed here, *Politicising Commodification: European Governance and Labour Politics from the Financial Crisis to the Covid Emergency* by R. Erne, S. Stand, D. Golden, I. Szabó, and V. Maccarrone (2024), offers an assessment of EU policies from the perspective of both institutional dynamics and EU social orientations. From an institutional standpoint, it highlights a technocratic and centralising drift on the part of the European Commission, to the detriment of other institutional actors such as the European Parliament, as well as social actors, notably trade unions. In terms of social orientations, the book outlines – through a detailed review of relevant acts – a predominant bias in favour of market mechanisms and private goods over public ones. The book is intended for social activists and trade unionists.

Keywords: predominant view in favour of markets and private goods.