

**POLITICHE SOCIALI/SOCIAL POLICIES (IL MULINO)
CALL FOR PAPERS**

"School-to-work transitions and youth employment policies: toward a shared European approach?"

Focal Issue to be included in No 2/2016

Guest Editors: Patrik Vesan and Paolo Graziano

Abstract Submission: Deadline 30 June 2015

Manuscript Submission: Deadline 30 November 2015

With the significant rise in the unemployment rate among young generations that has followed the outbreak of the economic crisis, youth employment policies have gained centre stage in the European labour market policy agenda. In 2010, two European Commission flagship initiatives directly addressing young people ("Agenda for new skills and jobs" and "Youth on the move") were adopted in the framework of the EU 2020 strategy. Moreover, in 2013 a new program (the Youth Guarantee) was launched in order to cushion the severe occupational crisis that has affected young people in many countries and the increasing phenomenon of the NEET (i.e. young people not in employment, education or training).

At a national level, several governments have adopted policy initiatives in order to facilitate smooth transitions from school/university to work and to adapt "old" educational and youth employment policies (training, labour legislation, incentive measures) to the changing needs of post industrial economies.

This special issue examines how policy makers are responding to the recent rise in youth unemployment. Authors are invited to submit original papers analysing one of the following themes:

- a) the trajectories of reform in national education or training systems and youth employment policies (internship, apprenticeship, active labour market policy, social inclusion measures) with the aim of contributing to the development of an analytical scheme for cross-country analysis of youth "transitional labour market policies" (Y-TLMP). Can we identify specific configuration of Y-TLMP? What are the main factors that have (or have not) led to significant changes in Y-TLMP? How can we describe the direction of change (retrenchment/dismantling, expansion, maintenance of the old "industrial" approach, social investment approach)?
- b) the design and implementation of policy programs aimed at easing school-to-work transitions and combating youth unemployment or inactivity. How can we describe the operational governance of the main initiatives in this policy domain? To what extent have the austerity policies or the availability of new financial resources (e.g. through the Youth Employment Initiative) affected the implementation of youth employment policies? Does the implementation process appear consistent with the social investment strategy?
- c) policy discourses and strategies made by political parties and trade unions concerning youth unemployment and school-to-work transitions. Has the recent economic crisis had an impact on the

policy narrative, the ideological content and the social or political representation of the causes and solutions of youth unemployment?

Articles should focus on school-to-work transitions and youth employment policies from 2000 onwards, paying particular attention to the changes that may have occurred after the outbreak of the recent economic crisis. Both theoretically oriented comparative or single country analyses are welcome.

Selected articles will be included in issue no.2 /2016 and will be published in August 2016.

We invite submission of abstracts of no more than 500 words that outline the primary research question, theoretical approach, methods, data sources, and relevance. Abstracts should be sent no later than 30 June 2015 to the following address: politichesociali@mulino.it. Submitting Authors should also send a short biographical note. Guest editors will evaluate abstracts and notify submitting authors of acceptance or rejection by 30 July 2015. If an abstract is accepted, the manuscript must be sent to the Editorial manager of the Journal by 30 November 2015. All manuscripts published in the Journal are subject to a double blind peer review system. Reviewers are chosen by guest editors in consultation with the editors of the journal. Decisions on publication will be taken on the basis of reviewers' reports.

Journal information and instructions for authors can be found on the Journal's website:

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