

Track one, core course 1: Financing Social Policy Protection: Is there anybody too poor to share?

1. content and objectives

*Should we pay for unemployment benefits with general taxation or contributions?* In any society, social transfers, for example unemployment benefits, account for a substantial part of national income. Distributive machines of that scale have to be designed and operated with utmost care to ensure that they achieve socially, economically and fiscally optimal results. In this course present and future financial planners as well as decision-makers are equipped with the tools for good financial, fiscal and economic governance of national social protection systems. The aim of social protection systems is to alleviate situations that put people under (financial) strain. In this context the following question arises: "Is there anybody too poor to share?" Or in other words: "Are there any countries that cannot afford any social protection?" The short answer is "No", the long answer will be discussed and analyzed in this course. Furthermore, the course outlines ways to assist in policy processes that define desirable levels and the scope of social protection in a given country.

2. course organization

3. examination

4. staff

5. literature

Track one, core course 2: Social Budgeting

1. content and objectives

*What is the effect of the ageing population on our pension systems?* One of the major reasons why social protection has been regarded as an obstacle to higher growth in the past was the fact that governments seriously mismanaged the finances of social protection systems that were initially well designed. Imperative for the development of a system of governance for the social sector is to know what the present overall level of expenditure is, where money is spent, where needs are not met, and how the overall national social expenditure and the financial burden for the different financiers of the system (employers, workers and the government) would develop under different economic scenarios and under different reform options. In this context it is very important to consider the effects of long-term trends, like the population decline observed in many countries. In providing students with clear social accounting and meaningful projection systems, this course offers a hands-on basis for national social policy.

2. course organization

3. examination

4. staff

5. literature

Track one, core course 3: SPF: Actuarial Practice in Social Protection

1. content and objectives

*When are the current pension funds going to be bankrupt if ageing continues at the present pace?* Actuaries build models to make financial projections of social protection systems. They are required to deal with complex demographic, economic, financial, institutional and legal aspects that all interact with each other. Within this framework, projections into the future are delicate balances in demographic, economic, financial and actuarial fields. This exercise requires the handling of reliable statistical data, the formulation of prudent and safe, though realistic, actuarial assumptions and the design of sophisticated models to ensure consistency between the objectives and the means of the social protection scheme. Introducing basic actuarial methods to evaluate and formulate financial policies in social securities are issues that often retain their complexities at the national level. This course teaches basic actuarial methods to conduct actuarial valuations of a social protection system, while always linking the theory to the application.

2. course organization

3. examination

4. staff

5. literature

### Track one, core course 3: SPD: Poverty and Inequality

#### 1. content and objectives

*Is the meaning of poverty the same everywhere?* The course includes the historical trends in poverty and inequality in OECD economies as well as in developing countries. By first discussing the measurement of poverty and inequality, the readings and the related seminars guide the students through the explanations for the historical trends. The modern political economy serves as the backbone for the theoretical explanations and the role of economic and social policy is central in the approach. However, a wide range of theories from different fields will be considered. An international comparative analysis is crucial in order to understand why almost all economies show fluctuations in the extent of inequality between individuals and households. The technical and skill aspects of the course are concentrated around empirical research using household survey data and the role of important parameters in assessing inequality and poverty among households. The course equips the students with basic technical skills in order to design poverty/inequality reduction policies.

#### 2. course organization

#### 3. examination

#### 4. staff

#### 5. literature

### Track one, core course 4: SPF: Health Care Financing

#### 1. content and objectives

*What should we do when people "over-use" a free health care system?* Nearly all policy decisions for national health systems must be based on the quantitative aspects of the options available, and the impact of any decisions taken. A free health care system might have a big impact by enabling a healthier population, but will be financially very expensive. The impact is also a critical input to reform. Hence, the ability to describe health care systems quantitatively, as well as to create a range of 'what if' scenarios based on new directions for those systems, is increasingly important in all countries. The methods presented in this course allow working out a clear and complete description of how a health care system is financed. Furthermore, it illustrates how demographic, economic and social factors affect the financial ability of the system in the short and medium term. In addition, students will be trained in forecasting the impact of current decisions on health care expenditures in the future.

#### 2. course organization

#### 3. examination

#### 4. staff

#### 5. literature

### Track one, core course 4: SPD: Comparative analysis of social policy design

#### 1. content and objectives

*How do the US and European welfare states differ?* Relatively new social policy arrangements in Central and Eastern Europe as well in many middle income countries provide new perspectives on the viability and the sustainability of welfare states. Welfare states all over the world differ not only in how much is spent, but also on what the budget is spent and how it is spent. This course continues the comparison between different social protection policies and welfare states that was introduced in the track preparatory courses and stimulates an in-depth discussion of the differences. It presents important questions such as, under which conditions do larger welfare states reduce poverty; the course wants to show students how to approach those problems.

#### 2. course organization

#### 3. examination

#### 4. staff

#### 5. literature