



In collaborazione con



International Conference

Participatory local welfare, citizenship and third sector organizations. What is at stake?
Pisa, 31st January – 1st February, 2013

Call for Papers

STREAM 4

Public, for profit and not for profit actors: changing roles and relations, and the effects on rights, duties and the welfare institutional building

Stream Coordinators

Laurent Fraisse, Interdisciplinary Laboratory on Economic Sociology / CNAM-CNRS, laurent.fraisse@lise.cnrs.fr

Stefania Sabatinelli, LPS / DIAP, Politecnico di Milano, stefania.sabatinelli@unimib.it

Welfare systems have been undergoing major changes in the last two decades, that have deeply modified the constellation of actors participating in programming, financing and providing social policies. The multiplication and diversification of institutions and bodies involved in the production of welfare are widely observed, although at varying degree and pace in different national and local contexts, or in different policy fields. Such an evolution was the result of different processes.

On one side, an autonomous, “parallel” growth of non public provision, tackling quantitatively or qualitatively unmet social needs. This development includes a variety of initiatives, ranging from the rise of grassroots, participatory and innovative initiatives, to the increase in provision of welfare services and programmes by private, both for profit and non profit, organisations, and even the direct commitment of employers in providing welfare resources to their employees.

On the other side, smashed between the necessity to control public expenditure and the need to respond to new social risks and changing social demands (and – in some contexts – building on a long-lasting tradition of subsidiarity), public actors have increasingly shared responsibilities with, or shifted them onto, non public actors. This has led to the development of public support to non public intervention (either supply-side or demand-side; e.g. payment of vouchers), and to a growth of mixed forms of provision and regulation, based on diversified public-private partnerships (outsourcing, purchase of services provided by private actors, creation of special public-private joint agencies, etc.). Also increasing is the private financing of social programs, be they implemented by public, private or mixed bodies. All these solutions can in turn be defined by varying distributive

and contractual forms, including an increase use of competitive mechanisms, that contribute to make both the relations among actors, and the analysis of governance patterns, more complex.

All together these trends contribute to bring into question the understanding of what welfare is, who is responsible for it and who can access it. As a matter of fact, tension is put on the balance between rights and duties, and the cleavage between inclusiveness and selectivity, both for providers and recipients or risk-bearers. The varying extent to which these evolutions are found in different national welfare regimes and local welfare systems also needs to be tackled.

These issues have been addressed from different perspectives. This stream aims at shedding light on how the division of responsibilities among public, for profit and non for profit actors is changing, at comparing how these processes vary among national and local contexts, and at discussing what implications this has on the distribution of power: a) among the actors part-taking to welfare provision; b) between the part-taking actors on the one side, and the welfare recipients and the risk-bearers on the other.

Possible research questions may concern:

- how accountability is questioned by changing assets in decision-making, with possible gaps and/or overlapping;
- to what extent the increasing diversification of actors is related to a shift from a service-based to a project-based rationale, and how this affects the welfare institutional building;
- to what extent these developments are changing the rationale, objectives and practices of non public actors; and whether, as a result, differences between for profit and non for profit actors are increasing or being reduced;
- whether participation of different actors is favoured or jeopardised;
- what impacts these changes have on the rights and duties of welfare workers and their working conditions, in times of recasting of financial resources, precarisation of job contracts, and changing paradigms of welfare intervention;
- innovative dynamics and positive solutions that can be identified, especially at the local level (e.g. favouring welfare co-production, allowing users' voice, etc.).

We welcome abstracts of papers dealing with one or more of these themes. We will privilege papers that, based on empirical analysis, draw some theoretical conclusions about the impacts of the changing roles and relations of welfare actors. Comparative approaches as well as in-depth case studies will be appreciated.

Please remind that:

a) ***The deadline to send an abstract proposal is 27th September 2012.*** Abstract proposals must be sent both to laurent.fraisse@lise.cnrs.fr, stefania.sabatinelli@unimib.it and to info@volontariatoepartecipazione.eu

b) *The abstracts must include the research question, methods, results and any of the main references (for a maximum length of **3000 characters**), besides the author's name, affiliation and contact information.*

c) ***The notification of selected abstracts will be given no later than 8th October 2012.***

d) ***The deadline to submit a Paper is 7th January 2013.***