



COMUNE DI SANREMO

BANDO DI CONCORSO PUBBLICO, PER ESAMI, PER LA COPERTURA DI N. 6 POSTI IN PROFILO DI "ASSISTENTE SOCIALE", CATEGORIA D, POSIZIONE ECONOMICA D 1 DEL NUOVO ORDINAMENTO PROFESSIONALE : N. 5 POSTI DA ASSEGNARE PRESSO IL COMUNE DI SANREMO E N.1 PRESSO IL COMUNE DI SANTO STEFANO AL MARE - PROVA ORALE

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1)The interest in the topic has guided the drafting of this work. Trying to retrace the history of the welfare state, the work has defined its concrete meaning, and then it has analysed the different stages of development and the different existing models, especially to highlight and understand the differences between European countries in the ways they respond to the political and social needs of the community.

2)A first form of social state, or more precisely of welfare state, was introduced in 1601 in England with the promulgation of laws on the poor (Poor Law). The second phase, the work of conservative constitutional monarchies or liberal thinkers, is connected to the first Industrial Revolution and to the English legislation of 1834, and in this context the first social insurances were born to guarantee workers against accidents at work. These services weight on public accounts through the so-called social spending; they require considerable financial resources, largely coming from the tax levy.

3)The study then moved on to its definition. Today, in fact, the Welfare State, Assistance State or Social State can be generally defined as the set of public policies implemented by a state, in a market economy, to guarantee the well-being and progress of the community and improve the life conditions of citizens, ensuring that they enjoy certain basic services, such as education, healthcare, social insurance, pensions and other forms of social benefits, as well as guaranteeing the right to work and housing.

4)The classification by Titmuss (residual, meritocratic-occupational and institutional-redistributive) develops along a growing scale with respect to the burden and complexity of state interventions: while in the residual and the meritocratic-occupational welfare state there is a strong presence of the market and the employment system, in the institutional-redistributive welfare, based on the principles of equality and the fulfilment of social needs, state services are manifold and generous.

5)Esping-Andersen was then the first author who understood the importance of considering the principles that regulate the relations between state, family and market as an analytical element able to explain the differences between the welfare systems. In his analysis, the welfare state is intended as a historically defined construction, with the aim of structuring the social contract between state and citizens in market economy societies.

6) These European social protection systems are modelled on the historical, political and cultural experiences of each country and are born historically on the basis of different models, inspired by different objectives and criteria. The various systems differ mainly by the size and composition of public spending, the institutional aspects, the types of services provided and the funding mechanisms.

7) The European Union estimates around 120 million European citizens in a situation of poverty or social exclusion, so a series of measures have been developed to try to achieve the objective set out in the Europe 2020 strategy. Social protection is at the heart of the European social system model and aims at achieving, by 2020, the goal of taking about 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion.

8) The welfare state, assistance state or social state, can generally be defined as the set of public policies implemented by a State, in a market economy, to guarantee the well-being and progress of its community and improve the living conditions of its citizens, guaranteeing the same access to some basic services, such as education, healthcare, social insurance, pensions and other forms of social benefits, as well as the right to work and social housing.

9) The English expression Welfare State, was created in Great Britain during the Second World War, to indicate "a system aimed at guaranteeing citizens' political rights as minimum standards of the fundamental components of well-being (income, food, health, education, housing)", with the goal of caring for citizens from cradle to grave. It found its full application after the Second World War.

10) After the Great War, Germany adopted a new political-judicial structure, approving the Weimar Constitution, which recognised for the first time in history, social rights, the full legitimacy of assistance as an institution to guarantee a high degree of physical safety and security (also through the active participation of all social subjects) and above all the formal acceptance of the role of the trade unions.

11) The liberal regime is adopted by the Anglo-Saxon countries (England and Ireland). This model is aimed at reducing poverty and other phenomena such as social exclusion. To achieve this objective, social assistance programs and subsidies are adopted, conditioning their disbursement to the verification of the means. Public social assistance programs are not universal and State action is residual. In most cases, the interventions are category based, referring only to specific groups of risk, with a strong dualism between needy and economically independent citizens.

12) The best known example in this regard is social insurance, a program in which individuals helped themselves through the payment of state insurance premiums. Also in England, a further step forward was taken with the establishment of workhouses, work and reception houses that aimed at fighting unemployment and keeping the cost of labour down. However, these turned into places of forced detention; the stay in these public centres was equivalent to the loss of civil and political rights in exchange for government assistance.

13) This second phase, inspired by conservative constitutional monarchies or liberal thinkers, can be traced back to the first industrial revolution and the English legislation of 1834. Also in this case, the forms of assistance are to be considered individual and are addressed only to those belonging to a disadvantaged social class: in this context the first "social insurances" were established to guarantee workers against accidents at work, illness and old age. At first, these were on a voluntary basis, but later they became mandatory for all workers.

14)Sweden in 1948 was the first country to introduce a pension for all citizens founded on their birth right. This way, Welfare became universal, making all citizens bear equal civil and political rights throughout their life. The affirmation of the new-born social state with the related strong increase in public spending was accompanied by an exponential growth of GDP.

15)Only with the institutional redistributive model (continental European countries such as Germany and Italy), the acquisitive logics that move the market and the logics at the root of inequality are effectively balanced by public welfare programs; in this case the criterion of allocation of resources is defined ex ante, based on pure need, and the goal of the programs is freedom from need. In this third model, the State adopts universal criteria for the provision of services.

16)The various systems differ mainly by the size and composition of public spending, the institutional aspects, the types of services provided and the funding mechanisms. We have then focused on a careful analysis of the Italian model primarily with reference to the constitutionally guaranteed principles. In fact, the Italian Constitution envisions social assistance for those who are not in a position to work, which is a right and no longer a provision of charitable organisations recognised by the State.

17)What would distinguish generic assistance from social assistance would be the nature of interventions that are no longer characterised by individual donations, discretionary, based on personal and charitable feelings, but by specific regulatory interventions that mark the shift from charity to social rights and remove need situations through monetary benefits and social services typically financed by general taxation.

18)In the occupational models, the insurance protection network is reserved for some categories of employees and public solidarity is fragmented according to occupational demarcations that give rise to a plurality of communities at risk. The universal models are characterised by national social security programs with homogeneous and fixed sum performances.

19)In the analysis, a welfare state is intended as a historically defined construction, aimed at structuring the social contract between state and citizens in market economy societies. Esping-Andersen also considers "that the sum total of social welfare is dependent on the way in which the inputs of state, market and family are combined".

20)The adoption of specific differentiation criteria in interventions and support measures involves a highly differentiated distribution of social risks among the population. Most of the procedures for the provision of services are based on the principle of subsidiarity. In fact, the intervention of the state is limited to situations in which the family is unable to protect its members from the most common social risks, such as disability, illness, unemployment and old age.

21)The welfare systems are nowadays affected by a deep crisis, which, on the one hand, originates from increasingly scarce resources and stringent budgetary constraints, and on the other from the emergence of new risks and new social needs. In many European countries there is a growing opinion according to which the welfare state, due to the discouraging effects of its institutions and the tax levy necessary for its financing, is to be considered one of the main causes of unsatisfactory economic growth, compared to the corresponding performance in the US.

22)All these factors undermine the traditional welfare state system. In the 1990s, changes and reforms aimed at recalibrating the original welfare state system were implemented in almost all countries. In Italy,

healthcare cost sharing fees have been introduced to contain costs. The pension system has been transformed by a number of restrictive reforms aimed at lowering the costs of social spending.

Il Presidente della Commissione Esaminatrice
dott. Mangiarotti Massimo
documento firmato digitalmente

23) Finally, the "globalisation" of markets has been indicated by both liberal and left-wing governments as a factor of welfare crisis since, despite being an opportunity for social development, it entails, at least for a first period, more or less long, problems to the economies and productive apparatuses of already industrialised countries, with consequent increases in social costs related to growing unemployment in mature sectors and to the support of some productions. In addition, there are the initial inclusion costs deriving from the entry of new citizens attracted by developed economies.

24) The Social Democratic regime is typical of the Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark). In the planning of social policies, this model makes reference to the principle of universalism, i.e. protecting everyone according to the state of individual need. One of its fundamental characteristics is the active effort to "de-commodify" well-being while minimizing dependence on the market.

25) For the reasons illustrated above, the social-democratic model is particularly effective in combating poverty and social exclusion.

For instance, in Finland, the widespread availability of childcare and related services facilitates the balance between work and family responsibilities. In the Scandinavian countries, basic assistance is a subjective right of each individual, allowing subjects who are temporarily deprived of sufficient financial means to meet their basic needs.

26) These are organised and managed in relation to the needs of the entire population and their access is based on residence only and not on contributions or the payment of services. The institutional model intervenes in the upstream phase of the distribution processes or before the situations of need arise. This implies that social interventions are predominantly aimed at prevention rather than assistance.