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NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

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Abstracts

THE EUROPEAN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SCHEME: LEGAL BASIS FOR RESOCIALISING EUROPE

Silvio Bologna

This paper focuses on the possible introduction of a European Unemployment Benefit Scheme (henceforth EUBS) as a legal “tool” to resocialise Europe in times of crisis. After a description of the US system of insurance against unemployment, which could represent an ideal type because of the shared competences between the federal and the State levels, the present work explores the legitimacy of the measure in compliance with the EU treaties: despite the lack of an exclusive EU competence in the field of social security, a European insurance against unemployment could be legitimised by an holistic approach to EU law. To empirically demonstrate either the feasibility or the criticalities of the EUBS, the work concludes by simulating the interaction between the Spanish system of protection against unemployment and the same EUBS.

EUBS IMPLEMENTATION FROM A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE: A CHANCE FOR INCREASING THE EU'S LEGITIMACY. THE DANISH AND THE ITALIAN SYSTEMS

Tania Bazzani

The article aims at providing specific remarks for implementing a European Unemployment Benefit Scheme (EUBS) in the EU Member States. In doing this, this contribution highlights the potential role for the EUBS in helping EU institutions gain legitimacy in the eyes of the European citizens. This topic appears particularly relevant after Brexit, and should not be ignored. In order to deal with this issue, the article proposes to take into consideration two different models, which are sorts of poles apart: the Danish system, in order to point out those aspects that have been crucial for the achievement of a high level of legitimacy in such a labour market policies (LMPs) best practice example; the Italian system, in order to understand whether EU legitimacy could be reached through the EUBS implementation in a State with peculiar problems in LMPs and to highlight practical issues that may need dealing with.

EUROPEAN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SCHEME TO FACE SOCIAL EXCLUSION: A REAL PERSPECTIVE OR JUST A POLITICAL SHANGRI-LA?

Fabio Ferrari, Simone D'Ascola

The article analyses the possible introduction of an unemployment subsidy at European level. The first section describes the constitutional background at three different levels: first, the role played by social rights; second, how the Italian Constitution outlines protection against unemployment; third, the tricky relation among national and supranational law sources.

The analysis goes further considering some thorny aspects of the European Unemployment Benefit Scheme (EUBS) through the labour law lenses: its link with social safety nets; the risk that the new European insurance might ensure low protection standards; and above all the inevitable link of the EUBS with the minimum wage issue. The final remarks regard the risk that the EUBS could produce positive effects for people only following greater integration at political and economic level.

THE EUBS: QUESTIONING AND REACTING

Martina Menghi

This paper deals with the main issues related to the implementation of a European Unemployment Benefit Scheme (EUBS). The main purpose is to show that, in spite of the practical difficulties, advantages are more significant than disadvantages. The concerns of moral hazard and fiscal responsibility are critically and constructively discussed, and responded to, with a particular focus on the feasibility in Italy.

Moreover, this paper wishes to contribute to the debate around such a scheme through the illustration of a “pilot project”, which would be applied only to the category of “European workers”. In times of crisis and Euroscepticism, this would represent a remarkable effort towards political European integration.

THE EUBS AND THE PROTECTION FROM INVOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT:TOWARDS A NEW MODEL OF SOLIDARITY IN EUROPE?

Elena Monticelli

This paper analyses the feasibility of introducing a European Unemployment Benefit Scheme (EUBS), which would work as an insurance mechanism against the risks of asymmetrical shocks among countries. The implementation of the EUBS presents a number of difficulties. It is necessary, first of all, to analyse the legal compatibility between the EU treaties and a form of EUBS. Moreover, it is useful to explore the possible coexistence of the EUBS with the benefits of the national (in this case Italian) social security system, which provides for the involuntarily unemployed. After analysing these problems, it is crucial to analyse the administrative management of the system as part of a European multi-level governance, in a context in which the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) is to this day problematic, and in which there is no harmonisation among social protection systems. It is also interesting to analyse the possible link between the EUBS and a European Minimum Income. The question that inspired this paper is as follows: is the EUBS only a good economic stabiliser or could it be inspired by the principle of solidarity between Member States, in a context in which solidarity is overshadowed by the need for economic and financial stability in the Union?

SOCIOLOGY OF THE JOBS ACT

Marco Elia, Enrico Pugliese

The “Jobs Act” is a very ambitious labour market reform. It aims at fostering both overall and, in particular, youth employment, reducing precariousness and increasing the stability of the least protected workers. The theory and the values at the basis of the act are those prevailing at institutional level both in Italy and in the EU: basically they rely on the assumption that unemployment and related problems can be solved acting at labour market level by modifying labour laws and reducing the benefits of the so-called insiders. The article analyses the way the Italian government has presented the reform and the role of political communication (with its aggressive character) including the odd term (in English) chosen to name it. A comparison with the “US Jobs Act” is carried out pointing out the extreme difference between the two. The article provides evidence on the results of the reform, in particular in terms of quality of employment (with the development of new forms of precarious employment) and the paradoxical effect of the concentration of new employment in the oldest age groups. Finally, the article argues that the reform and its political communication style are expression of a new regulation model that tends to ignore the role and the demands of the unions and other stakeholders.

WORK-RELATED LEARNING: A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS ONE YEAR AFTER ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Clorinda Maisto, Francesco Pastore

This essay aims to analyse the functioning, strengths, and weaknesses of work-related learning as shaped by the latest reform of the schooling system (2015). Due to lack of statistical data, we apply critical reasoning and comparative analysis with a view to showing that work-related training is indeed able to increase employability through two main channels: first, it raises the human capital of recipients by providing general work-related competences; second, it enlarges the network of contacts that may turn out to be useful to find a job once entering the labour market. Nonetheless, work-related learning does not provide job-specific work experience, which requires a longer time span. There is still a long way to go towards involving firms – especially in southern regions, where they are less numerous – as well as towards overcoming the cultural resistance from many stakeholders.

WORK ORGANISATION AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. STUDIES AND RESEARCHES IN ITALY IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

Anna M. Ponzellini

The essay is a critical review of those studies and researches that in the last 20 years have analysed the change in organisation, management, and labour paradigms, together with the response (or lack thereof) from the industrial relations system. The resulting picture shows a long period of neglect, by both scholars and collective bargaining, recently interrupted due to the key role the productivity issue has started to play both with regard to the economic crisis and in the new lean organisation paradigms. The review especially highlights the emerging issue of employee direct participation, introduced at the managers' initiative and still poorly integrated into the industrial relations system. Employee participation could indeed be at the core of a "new paradigm of work" being able to meet companies' demand for flexibility, as well as workers' claim for a better working life. Still, a new framework of rules growing out of the 20th-century Fordist labour relations system appears to be necessary.

FROM QUESNAY TO GILGAMESH:A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY TO DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORGANISATION (IN MEMORY OF GIORGIO GILIBERT)

Massimo Egidi

At the core of Giorgio Gilibert's ideas is the classical view of the economy as a circular process. He reframes this in very original ways, applying it to markedly different contexts, both in the recent paper re-published here and in his previous papers on classical theories of value and on the neo-Ricardian approach. In the first paper, he criticises Michael Kremer's endogenous theory of growth and, following Quesnay's famous moment of insight, claims that the technological innovation that gave rise to the birth of the first ancient town could have only taken place thanks to three previous social innovations: writing, money, and accounting. Quesnay also guides his previous writings on the transformation of values to prices and the discovery of the solution provided by von Karassov.

MARCELLO DE CECCO AND THE EURO

Felice Roberto Pizzuti

Marcello de Cecco was an economist, to be intended as a social scientist whose essence cannot be reduced to the abstract and highly technical specialism that in the last decades has been so highly popular in economics. From his contributions on the troubled events of the European Union and of the euro there emerges both the complex interaction between analytical, empirical, institutional, historical, social, and political aspects, and the responsibility of the dominant economic vision. Even though the *Great Recession* broke out in the USA and has been powered by monetarist orthodoxy relaunched by the Chicago school of economics, its most perverse effects have been felt in the European Union because its construction has been permeated by that theoretical vision as well as by the myopia and national idiosyncrasies that prevailed on the unifying spirit of the original project, which, instead, it is essential to refer to.

UNITY, CONSISTENCY, AND FERTILITY OF BRUNO DE FINETTI'S THOUGHT

Giuseppe Amari

This article deals with the original subjective conception of probability by Bruno de Finetti, considered as the "logic of uncertain". It also tries to demonstrate how this conception involves the human condition itself, as to both its ethical and aesthetical aspects. Unlike in the framework of other theories, these aspects are not justified by themselves but are closely and consistently linked to the abovementioned epistemological conception. The latter is moreover very important to justify the "Utopia as a necessary precondition for every significant foundation of economics".