

Statute for the establishment of the International Research Centre for Global and Comparative Policy Studies on the Education and Learning of Adults (IRC-GloCoPoS)

ART.1 – Constitution and name

1. The **International Research Centre for Global and Comparative Policy Studies on the Education and Learning of Adults**, hereafter referred to as the Centre, has been established at the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona.
2. The short name of the Centre is IRC-GloCoPoS.

ART.2 – Objectives

The Centre is an international research hub that fosters global and comparative policy studies on the education and learning of adults. Policy studies involve the systematic examination of the nature, cause and effects of public statements and meaning-making processes behind them. Specifically, the Centre's objectives are to advance scientific knowledge and to promote knowledge exchange and dissemination in three interrelated areas:

1. Comparative policy studies: Much comparative policy studies on the education and learning of adults, in Italy and internationally, still ignore or undervalue the effects of globalization and increased internationalization on education. Research by the Centre will interrogate: How is policy on the education and learning of adults made under the effects of globalization and increased internationalization in education?
2. Global policy studies: Research evidence cautions in interpreting education policy in terms of what public or private organizations do at either local, national or global scales, while recognising complex interactions among a plethora of policy actors and adoption of several policy tools to influence education. Research by the Centre will question: Who and what contribute to policy developments on the education and learning of adults across socio-political territories? How do these policy developments affect adult education and learning praxis in specific localities?
3. Theory and methods: While comparative and global policy studies on the education and learning of adults is grounded in General and social education as a scientific field (i.e. M-PED/01), other disciplinary perspectives (e.g., political science, sociology, anthropology) can contribute to research advances in these areas. Research by the Centre will explore: What theories, concepts, research methods and strategies can be fruitfully applied to advance comparative and global policy studies on the education and learning of adults?

ART.3 – Topics of interest

1. Policy studies on the education and learning of adults have originally borrowed from comparative education an understanding of what a comparison is (i.e., country-to-country) and how comparative scholarship can benefit policy work (i.e., by learning from other national experiences). Such a methodological approach is grounded on the conception that a policy is the resultant of a polity or particular system of government that constitutes the political setting for a policy, which results from

stable relations among political administrative institutions, societal processes, and cultural adherence to certain rules, believes etc. (i.e., each country has a unique and geographically bounded polity). But since the education and learning of adults has gained new momentum in public and private policy under the 'lifelong learning regime', policy researchers around the world have increasingly recognized that policy work that affects the education and learning of adults is also influenced by intergovernmental organizations like the European Union (EU) or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), just to mention the most researched among inter-states organizations. Some research also raised attention to the role and contribution of under-researched inter-states organisations like the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and of international or regional non-governmental organizations that lobby and get involved in transnational policy making. Whereas work by international and non-governmental organizations, together with that of financial institutions, tend towards conditioning and/or exerting control over states' decisions about the education and learning of adults, research also shows that the manoeuvring of states and their capacities to influence the work of these organizations varies extensively, depending on country-specific socio-economic conditions and international affiliations, among other factors. Research by the Centre will deepen knowledge on all of the above phenomena.

ART.4 – Activities

1. The Centre in collaboration with other institutions, can engage with a number of activities on subjects relevant to the objectives of the Centre. In particular:

- a) Carry out studies and investigations;
- b) Organize scientific conferences;
- c) Promote the production of scientific books and publications, including a *Working Papers Series* presenting works-in-progress that reflects research findings from the Centre;
- d) Organize courses and seminars for undergraduate and graduate students as part of, or in addition to, the didactic obligations set by the Faculty to which the academic staff that adheres to the Centre belongs to.
- e) Facilitate visiting exchanges of academic staff, including PhD students, across the institutions adhering to the Centre.
- f) Promote the dialogue with individuals, professionals and non-academic institutions from local, national and international communities.

ART.5 – Membership and international collaborations

1. The Centre is made up of University or Research Institute Departments that have promoted its establishment (Founding departments) and these are:

- a) Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona;
- b) Department of Learning and Philosophy at Aalborg University;

- c) Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-IRPPS);
- d) School of Education at the University of Nottingham.

2. After the conclusion of appropriate agreements, other Italian and foreign Universities or Research institutes may join the Centre. Every institution that joins the Centre shall propose a list of adhering academic staff.

3. Individuals can become Associate members of the Centre, if belonging to one or more of the following professional categories:

- a) Teachers, Researchers, and PhD students of Italian and foreign Universities or Research institutes;

- b) Outside experts.

4. Individual applications by prospective Associate members shall be accompanied by the Scientific Curriculum, and any other document showing the congruence of the application with the objectives of the Centre.

5. Italian and foreign Universities, including University departments, or Research institutes, maintain their membership until written termination notice is given and signed either by the Department Director or by the Legal Representative of the institution.

6. Associate members maintain their membership until written termination notice is given and signed by the member. However, Associate membership shall be renewed every three years by the member.

ART.6 – Executive bodies

1. The Governing Bodies of the Centre are:

- a) The Director;

- b) The Scientific Committee;

2. The Scientific Committee consists of:

- a) The Director of the Centre, as chairman;

- b) Four among academic staff and researchers adhering to the Centre, including Associate members, of which one from each Founding department.

3. The Director is appointed by the Head of the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona in the person of:

Dr. Marcella Milana, Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona (Founding department).

4. Members of the Scientific Committee are appointed by the Director of the Centre in agreement with the Head of the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona in the persons of:

Professor Palle Rasmussen, Department of Learning and Philosophy at Aalborg University (Founding department);

Dr. Paolo Landri, Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies of the National Research Council of Italy (Founding department);

Professor John Holford, School of Education at the University of Nottingham (Founding department);

Dr. Pia Cort, Department of Education at Aarhus University.

5. The Scientific Committee meets face-to-face at least once per year. Additional meetings of the Scientific Committee may be held electronically.

6. If the Director considers it appropriate, an Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the Director and two members appointed by the Scientific Committee among all academic staff and researchers adhering to the Centre, including Associate members, may be established. The Executive Committee shall support the work of the Scientific Committee and take final decisions on matters delegated to it from time to time.

ART.7 – Role of the Director

1. The Director represents the Centre in dealing with the Academic Authorities and the outside world, and:

- a) Convenes and chairs the Scientific Committee;
- b) Makes the necessary provisions for the normal activities of the Centre;
- c) Liaises with the competent office responsible for administrative and financial accounting of the research funds obtained by the Centre.
- d) Appoints a Deputy Director among academic staff adhering to the Centre, including Associate members, to replace him/her in case of absence or legitimate impediment.

ART.8 – Role of the Scientific Committee

1. The Scientific Committee is responsible for ensuring the scientific and cultural validity of the initiatives promoted by the Centre and coordinating its activities. In particular:

- a) Approves at the end of each academic year a plan of action to be implemented in the next academic year;

b) Produce at the end of each academic year a report of the activities carried out by the Centre in the previous academic year to be forwarded to the Head of the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona.

c) Expresses binding opinions on the Scientific Curricula of academic staff in connection with applications for Associate membership as referred to in Art 5, par. 3.

ART.9 – Administrative and financial resources and management

1. The Centre has no administrative or financial autonomy.
2. The administrative and financial accounting of the Centre is under the responsibility of the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona.
3. The financial resources available to the Centre consist of incomes from contracts and agreements with public and private institutions and agencies, and of incomes from any other service for third parties in accordance with the University regulations.
4. Grant Recipients from Italian or foreign Universities and Research institutions can be assigned to the Centre.

ART. 10 – Offices and sub-offices

1. The Centre operates in the premises provided by the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona.
2. Sub-offices may be set up in the premises of one or more of the Founding departments, and other Italian and foreign Universities or Research institutes related to the Centre, according to appropriate agreements concluded in accordance Art. 5, par.2.

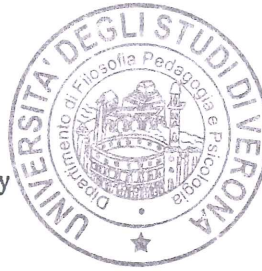
ART. 11 – Changes to this Statute

1. Although not expressly provided for in this Statute, the rules of the University of Verona and of the current national legislation are applied.
2. This Statute may be amended at the initiative and upon majority of the Scientific Committee. The proposed amendment shall be approved by the Board of the Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology at the University of Verona. The Founding departments, and Italian and foreign Universities or Research institutes adhering to the Centre according to Art.5, may accept the new Statute or withdraw their membership with effect from its entry into force without further commitments for either the Centre or the Department or the Institution that is withdrawing it.

Verona, 11/12/2015

Name, position and affiliation

Prof. Luigina Mortari
Head of Department
Department of Philosophy, Education and Psychology
University of Verona
Italy



Signature and stamp

Name, position and affiliation

Prof. Annette Lorentsen
Head of Department
Department of Learning and Philosophy
Aalborg University
Denmark

Signature and stamp

Department of Learning and Philosophy
Aalborg University
Kroghstræde 3
9220 Aalborg Ø

Name, position and affiliation

Dott. Corrado Bonifazi
Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies
National Research Council
Italy

Signature and stamp



IL DIRETTORE
(Dott. Corrado Bonifazi)

Name, position and affiliation

Lorraine Watson
Head of Research Operations, Financial & Business Services
Research & Graduate Services
University of Nottingham

Signature and stamp

Lorraine Watson
Assistant Director (Research Operations)
Research and Graduate Services
The University of Nottingham