



**ISTITUTO
RICERCHE
ECONOMICHE
E SOCIALI**

Cos'è I'RES

L'IRES - Istituto di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali è un'associazione no profit, fondata dalla Cgil nel 1979 su iniziativa di dirigenti autorevoli e prestigiosi quali Bruno Trentin, Giuliano Amato, Vittorio Foa.

La promozione, la progettazione e la realizzazione di studi e ricerche sono le principali attività svolte dall'Istituto. Dalla tradizionale attività di consulenza in ambito sindacale, l'IRES nel tempo ha consolidato rapporti e partnership con Università, Agenzie e Istituzioni, sia nazionali che comunitarie, sviluppando il proprio ruolo di cerniera tra il mondo politico-sindacale e quello scientifico-accademico.

Profondamente ispirata ad un approccio e ad un metodo interdisciplinare, l'analisi economica e sociologica si interseca – nel lavoro dell'IRES - con quella giuridica e delle relazioni industriali, con un'attenzione costante rivolta ai profili comparati e alla sempre più cruciale dimensione internazionale ed europea. La complessità e l'ampiezza delle materie affrontate, ha richiesto un'attenta articolazione e organizzazione degli ambiti di ricerca, suddivisi in diverse aree tematiche e osservatori.

What is IRES

IRES - Institute for Economic and Social Research is a non-profit association founded by CGIL in 1979 following an initiative by influential and prestigious leaders such as Bruno Trentin, Giuliano Amato, Vittorio Foa.

The institute's main task is to stimulate, develop and conduct research. Besides providing expert advice for trade union organisations, the Institute has forged over time a network of relations and partnerships with domestic and international Universities, agencies and institutions, defining for itself a role as a liaison between trade unions and academia.

By fully implementing a strictly interdisciplinary methodology, IRES combines economic and sociological research with studies conducted in the areas of labour law and industrial relations, privileging a comparative approach and focusing on an increasingly European and international dimension. The complexity and the sheer range of the issues dealt with has led IRES to develop and set up several research divisions (or areas), each tackling diverse themes and involving expert consultants.

Research Areas

They form the backbone of the Institute's operational structure:

Environment and Territory

The area's main task is to analyse the complex interrelations between environmental and social systems.

Research lines:

- Environment and development of local systems
- Environment, risk and business
- Urban sustainability

Labour Market

The Area analyses the changes that occur in the labour market, in the make-up of companies and in the redefinition of social organisation.

Research lines:

- Changes at work and new forms of labour
- Active labour market policies
- Unemployment benefit systems
- Gender issues, women and labour market

Industrial Relations

This Area has as the object of its study and research the participants, norms and procedures that regulate collective relations between the world of labour and that of business.

Research lines:

- Trade union law and Italian and comparative industrial relations
- Industrial and economic democracy
- Retribution, productivity, labour costs
Unionisation and comparative models of organisation

Local development and industrial policy

The Area analyses manufacturing systems - at European, national and local levels - and the industrial and economic policies implemented at each of these levels.

Research lines:

- Economic performance and local manufacturing systems (industrial districts and local employment systems)
- Country development policies
- Analysis by markets and sectors of the diffusion of IT and TLC
- Analysis of trends in manufacturing and competitiveness in the domestic and European manufacturing systems
- Economic performance in the South

Welfare and Citizens' rights

In the light of ongoing demographic, economic and social changes, this area carries out its research activity on the crucial themes of reforms, protection and social promotion in and out of the workplace.

Research lines:

- Local welfare
- Social impact of ageing
- Life trends and welfare
- Combating poverty

Observatories

Observatories are a further aspect of our organisation. Their task is to carefully monitor issues of crucial interest so as to gather in-depth information.

IRES has established seven observatories on the following themes:

Observatory on immigration

A permanent observation point for the gathering of data on the phenomenon of immigration.

Observatory on Health and Safety

This is an instrument for the monitoring and analysis of workers' health and safety conditions, risk factors, and interventions to ensure the assertion of the right to health and wellbeing of workers.

Observatory on atypical work

A permanent tool monitoring atypical work. The observatory focuses above all on analysing the latest developments and changes within the labour market.

Observatory on Hidden Work and Legality

Provides a constant monitoring of the hidden economy in Italy and of the measures that are taken to legalise it.

Observatory on Child Labour, Scholastic and Educational Dispersion

Its principal aim is to reconstruct, through a series of in-depth analyses, the profiles of minors who being work at a very young age.

Observatory on Salaries and Wealth Distribution

It monitors and analyses bargaining and wage trends in Italy and Europe.

Observatory on Energy and Innovation

The scope of the observatory is the study of the ongoing transformations in the Italian and European energy-environmental system and the dynamics of innovation and technological development for the elaboration of strategies of appropriate intervention in support of the action of the Trade Union.



Organisation

IRES can rely on a permanent staff of senior researchers for its activities. Each senior researcher is in charge of a specific area of studies and can seek the help of external researchers and scholars specializing in various disciplines to conduct specific study projects.

The Institute is backed by a Documentation and Information Department, relying on the services of the administrative and auditing departments. Besides the traditional platform of specialised hardware and software facilities (such as SPSS®, ArcView®), IRES' activity is sustained by theme data banks.

The Institute's coordination and management are entrusted to a chairman and a director. Its guidelines are set by a Steering Committee.

From the outset, IRES has conducted a vast amount of research, grasping the changes underway in society by empiric observation, formulating theoretical hypotheses that have been the hallmark of its 30-year-old history. IRES has been directing since 2002 the Studi & Ricerche series for the publishing house Ediesse, (also online starting from 2010) which includes some of the Institute's most significant work. IRES's scientific output consists of a vast number of publications, including books, essays, articles and working papers, which can be consulted at www.ires.it.