Editorial Office Sociologia, Problemas, Práticas

Manuscript Draft for Sociologia, Problemas, Práticas Journal

Title: **PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE IN PORTUGAL: POLICY CYCLE ANALYSIS OF ADVANCED TRAINING OF HUMAN RESOURCES UNDER COMMITMENT TO SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Abstract:

The paper analyzes policy initiative of advanced training of human resources in science and technology under the policy program *Commitment to Science* in Portugal in the period 2006-2009. It uses policy cycle analysis to identify stages of the policy process and explores under what conditions did the social problem reach the governmental agenda, what were the mechanisms for policy implementation and draws some conclusions on the outcomes of the policy initiative within the overall policy program. Our results underline the importance of strategic policy planning and stable funding allocation for the success of policy programs. More importantly, these results stress that certain societal problems can only be effectively approached via policy initiatives when there is an adequate political climate or consensus around the measures to be implemented, and the capability of institutions to carry out the intended policy changes.

Article Type: Research Article

Keywords: Policy process, science and technology policy, policy cycle analysis, human resources.

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