Editorial

Social Security in Complex Societies

Social Security was constitutionally designed to meet the needs of the community in the face of growing social risks (Balera, 2010). Rapid economic development has brought with it an increase in risks (Resende Ruba, 2023). Unemployment, the risk of accidents, incapacity for work, death itself, and old age are factors that are at stake in the social protection guaranteed by public social assistance and social security policies.

The Constitution is the source of this right. In Article 194 of the Social Order, Social Security is established as an integrated system for social protection. Based on the Constitution, ordinary legislators have enacted legislation regulating the implementation of these rights.

The challenge of social protection in the workplace, with its consequent impact on social security, in view of the growing use of new technologies, must be the subject of serious debate, ranging from ethics in the use of Artificial Intelligence to reflections on biological safety and energy sustainability issues.

This edition of ANPPREV Social Security Review brings ten research papers that explore, from strongly interdisciplinary angles, how social protection is being redesigned at the intersection of public governance, digital transformation, and new forms of work.

In 'Active Transparency of Social Security Benefits: An Opportunity to Combat Fraud in the Context of Revolution 5.0?', transparency appears not only as a republican virtue, but as a potential instrument of integrity and correction of distortions.

In 'On-demand public social security policies: strategic aspects for reflection and improvement of the "Meu INSS" application as a predictive tool,' the discussion about public platforms and their limits stands out: whether the digital service becomes the main gateway to the system.

Social complexity is also revealed in the way work is changing. Demographic dynamics, in turn, permeate the entire social security discussion and highlight the need for long-term governance. In 'Social security and digital governance in longevity: the senior generation in Revolution 5.0,' longevity is treated as a civilisational achievement that imposes tasks: designing policies capable of sustaining protection with autonomy, accessibility, and dignity, preventing digitisation from turning rights into a maze. And when it comes to sustainability, it is essential to avoid simplifications.

Finally, the research paper "Social Security and Digital Transformation: AtestMed and the decline of judicialisation in the era of the Fifth Industrial Revolution" allows us to observe, with greater specificity, how digital solutions can impact litigation and decision-making flows — which brings us back to the decisive question: what conditions must be met for technology to be governance, and not just automatism?
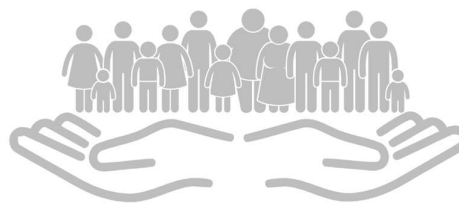
Taken together, the texts in this edition converge on a powerful idea: in complex societies, social security cannot be administered by reflexes from the past or easy promises for the future. It requires

state capabilities, transparency, intersectoral coordination, and an institutional ethic that recognises citizens not as occasional users, but as recipients of rights that sustain social democracy itself.

The editorial team would like to thank the authors, reviewers, and contributors who made this issue possible. May this reading stimulate informed debate and, above all, help transform diagnosis into a responsible public agenda.

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