



**José António Pereirinha (ISEG-UTL), Francisco Branco (FCH-UCP)**

**Title:** *Historical approach of minimum social standards in Portugal* \*

***Abstract***

The aim of this paper is to reconstruct the historical background and recent itinerary of minimum social standards in Portugal, considering the most important milestones in this process, including social insurance reform and the studies for setting a national minimum wage in the sixties, the introduction of social pension after April 1974 and the adoption of the guaranteed minimum income in 1996. This paper reviews different concepts and methodologies applied in setting minimum social standards in Portugal considering the different social and political contexts, as well as the main characteristics and the minimum income standard provided by the diversity of minimum social standards at different times. It is intended to produce an interpretation of the history of minimum social standards in Portugal. The methodology is based on the collection and analyses of studies and essays, documentary and statistical information.

**Keywords:** minimum income standard; social assistance; poverty; Portugal.

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