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Evolution of the Portuguese social partners voice on the three bailouts (1977, 1981, 2011)

In corporatist regimes, like the majority of European countries, both employers and workers associations enjoy the status of 'social partners'. They perform an important regulatory role of the labour market, settling branch directives through bilateral negotiations, and also a 'social peace' gatekeeper role through national pacts. These associations, which can be seen as the mediators between citizens and the state, were the first civic organisations enjoying a seat in tripartite bodies in many consultative councils where they still are in majority, like the Economic and Social Committee. In fact, they are a key part of 'social dialogue' which is considered one of the pillars of the 'European Social Model'.

However, there are different patterns of labour relations systems and the Southern European countries are known to be characterised by more fragmented movements and greater political opposition. Moreover, social partners' power was particularly targeted by IMF interventions and neoliberal policies of recent decades in these countries.

We intend to know how social partners 'voice' reflect the different challenges raised by the three bailouts (1977, 1981, 2011). In this sense, we believe this analysis will show us, on one hand, the evolution of social partners' towards their de-partisanization, and, on the other side, it will show us the evolution of social partners' towards the institutionalisation of social dialogue.

We will focus our analysis on the two main social partners in Portugal, CGTP-IN (workers) and CIP (employers). Based on a content analysis of their main publications, this is, Alavanca (1974-1996) and Indústria (1975-2017) respectively, we will focus on their written discourses, namely through a 'key-phrase extraction'. We will complement this analysis with other documents, like press releases, considering that Alavanca was extinct in 1996.