



## How EMOS opened me a new pathway and the importance of Official Statistics

I am Francesca, an EMOS student from the University of Pisa and the Sant'Anna school of advanced studies. My story started in 2016, when, during my last year of the bachelor, I had to choose what direction to turn my academic path. At the time, I was attending a bachelor in Economics and I had already observed a slightly drift towards my interests. Indeed, the more I studied economic theory, the more I realized that what I wanted

to investigate was the relationship between economic laws and real data. As a result, I started to look for a program which could conjugate a solid background in economic theory and the study of advanced statistical instruments. It naturally appeared to me that the new-born EMOS program held in Pisa was the one which better matched my requests.

As always happens to me when I start something new, I soon realized that EMOS was opening me a maze of new pathways I could hardly imagine before. That was when my academic path changed direction again. Indeed, thanks to this program I started to focus more and more on data collection and methodological issues for policy evaluation, rather than on empirical macroeconomic issues. In particular, during my traineeship at the ISTAT (Italian National institute of Official Statistics), I was assigned to the department which works on BES (Indicators of Welfare and Wellbeing). As a result, my knowledge about indicators of poverty and living conditions deepened, as long as my interest in this field. This lead me to the decision of choosing as topic for my final dissertation the application of a new multidimensional indicator to synthesize poverty and living conditions.

Thanks to EMOS, I got to realize how important it is to evaluate the social and economic condition of the society in order to boost the growth. As stated by Stiglitz, Sen & Fitoussi (2009) "What we measure affects what we do; and if our measurements are flawed, decisions may be distorted". I hope that this new indicator I am working at, could help in solving some of the main issues of the measures currently used and could help in "identifying" who the poor people are and what they really need. This, in turn, would help policymakers to better understand where to allocate funds so as to maximize their effectiveness and to reduce inequalities among the population.

In conclusion, I am glad I chose the EMOS program, which, in combination with the practical experience at the ISTAT, gave me highly valuable skills for future professional careers. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the field of measuring economic condition and producing appropriate and reliable data for economic purpose.





## Why EMOS is an added value?

My name is Lisa, I am an Italian student and I am attending the second year of Master of Science in Economics curriculum in Official Statistics (EMOS program) at University of Pisa. In the second year there are many courses about EMOS programme that I can attend. One of my favourite course is *European Local Indicators of Poverty and Living Conditions* which it tackles the most important topics in big data ranging from data collection, analysis and visualization, as well as applications of statistical models to Big data. In this course, my classmates and I, we are learning traditional and new survey techniques and what might be the problems that arise in the definition and measure of local indicators of poverty and living conditions. I love it because the professor teaches us also the use of R software and at the end of the course she will give us some data to manage with this

software and we have to expose in group to her our work. She also organizes many seminars and intensive lectures with professor from other EU countries. Another added value of EMOS program is that there are many international student which attend its courses, in this way my Italian classmate and I we know and learn from other culture. I am grateful to participate to this programme also because thanks to this I have the opportunity to do an internship at ISTAT

(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica). At ISTAT I can formalize my thesis project. I am looking forward to do this internship because I can get in touch with real data and learn the use of new software to manage the latest.



My name is Saverio, I am an EMOS student and I am completing my master's degree in Economics at the University of Pisa.

When I started my master's studies, EMOS was something quite new and I still was not sure about which curriculum I would have followed, General Economics or Official Statistics. Only after my first Official Statistics exam I decided that, in order to develop a wider range of analytical tools as an economist, I would have pursued the EMOS path.

What I most liked about the program is how much statistical practice it allowed me to take, compared to a more traditional master's in Economics, usually much more theoretical.

I had the chance to be an intern at the Italian National Institute of Statistics and I have first-hand worked on a topic I am truly passionate about: well-being and its measurement methods.

Knowing how to handle and read data, how to extract meaningful conclusions from them and how to implement conclusions on a practical level are invaluable transversal skills, that can be exploited also outside the context of a National Institute of Statistics