

### ***Section 3 – Politica comparata***

#### **Panel 2. Cabinet Ministers' selection in Time of Crisis.**

**Chairs: Antonino Castaldo, Luca Verzichelli**

The 2008 economic-financial crisis is certainly among the most relevant phenomenon of the last decades, since it triggered often profound requests of changes at social, political and institutional levels, both in Europe and in other regions of the world. In these times, who the rulers are becomes a critical issue, especially at the executive level. The literature on cabinet formation has made important advances over the last few years. However, the focus remains on the aggregate level and we still know little about the individuals that compose these cabinets. Who are the ministers? What are their competences? What is their liaison with the chief executive like and what is their external support? Did the 2008 economic-financial crisis influenced the ways ministerial personnel is selected and, above all, the type of cabinet ministers selected?

In this panel, we are more interested in the outcomes of government formation processes in terms of type, abilities and careers of cabinet ministers selected, rather than on the bargaining process that lead to the formation of the executive. While the classical literature on minister's selection has focused mainly on partisanship, recent contributions have highlighted the emerging role played by nonpartisan experts and technocrats, discussing the relevance and implications of attributes such as expertise and organized group links. Consistently with the contributions of both these research agendas, there are different aspects that still merit attention for a better understanding of the role and repercussions of ministers' profiles in contemporary governments.

We welcome papers dealing with the proposed research questions from a methodological-conceptual point of view, with the aim of overcoming, for example, traditional rigid taxonomies (e.g. partisans vs non-partisans) or identifying specific strategies for dealing with comparative data, as well as empirical contributions focusing on single case studies or structured comparisons. While analyses of the most affected European cases is preferred, we will also welcome papers dealing with the same phenomena in other regions of the world or comparisons of European and non-European cases.