

EU-CHINA SOCIAL PROTECTION REFORM PROJECT COMPONENT 3

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2015-2019



COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2015 ACTIVITIES**DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS****MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS****C3 1st Panel Discussion, June 29th, 2015**

The EU-China Social Protection Reform Project had the first panel discussion on “The Legal Framework of Social Assistance”, held at the Ministry of Civil Affairs on 29th June 2015. Mr Wang Zhikun, Director General of the Department of Social Assistance (MoCA), moderated the first session of the event, in which the Vice Minister of MoCA, Mr Gong Puguang welcomed the Vice Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Poland, Mr Radoslav Mleczo. The two emphasized the important role played by the project in the future EU-China partnership. The Panel was followed by a session moderated by Mr Liu Xitang, Deputy Director General, Department of Social Assistance (MoCA), which started with an introduction to the EU-China SPRP Component 3, given by Ms Marzena Breza, PhD, EU RE EU-China SPRP, Component 3.

The discussion continued with three presentations on the “Development of Social Assistance in China and specific regulation”; “Dibao and temporary legal measures on Social Assistance”; and “Legal framework of Social Assistance”, respectively provided by Mr Cao Feng, Assistant Professor, Tsinghua University (Beijing); Ms Guo Yu, Assistant Professor, Renmin University of China, and Ms Kong Fanhua, Professor, South China Normal University. The EU expert, Ms Zofia Czepulis-Rutkowska, PhD, Institute of Labour and Social Studies (Poland) gave her feedback on the presentations through a videoconference. Additional comments were provided by MoCA and external Chinese experts: Mr Tang Jun, Researcher, CASS; Mr Han Keqing, Professor, Renmin University of China; Mr Yang Sibin, Professor, China Institute of Industrial Relations. Also Mr Jean Victor Gruat, EU RE EU-China SPRP, Component 1, and Ms Xiaolin Yi, EUD, Project Officer, contributed with their reactions. The panel ended with an introduction on the follow-up work plans by Ms Marzena Breza, and closing remarks by Mr Liu Xitang. The whole discussion was an opportunity to deepen the knowledge on the Chinese social assistance system in the context of the legal provisions as well as to exchange the good practices of the EU counties in this field.

It was also stressed that for the future development of the social assistance instruments it should be taken into account the socio-economic context of China including labour market situation, ageing, public expenditure, ect.



EU-China High Level Forum on Social Protection Reform, September 15-16th, 2015

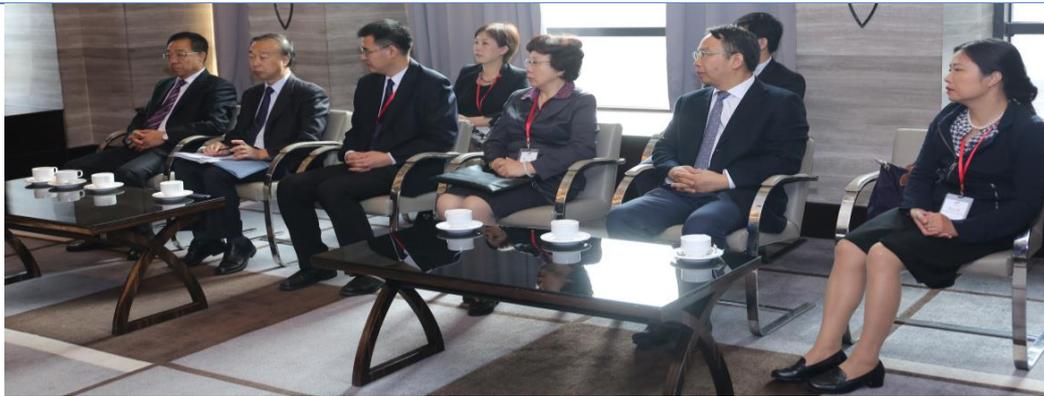
The 2015 EU-China High Level Forum on Social Protection Reform Challenges for Legal Framework of Social Assistance has been an opportunity for an extended exchange of knowledge, experience and view among EU and Chinese policy makers, experts, academics and practitioners. It was first high level event within EU-China Social Protection Reform Project within whose social assistance is one of the key elements.

For the events the main Component 3 stakeholders Ministry of Civil Affairs of the P. R. China and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Poland gathered together the EU and Chinese share experiences and challenges for social assistance. Speakers, panelists and participants from across China and all SPRP Consortium Member countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Poland, Romania and Spain) have been represented and contributed to the discussion held.

Opening speeches have been delivered by Mr Li Liguang Minister of Civil Affairs of P. R. China, Mr Hans-Dietmar Schweisgut Ambassador of the European Union to China and Mr Marek Bucior Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Poland. Among key speakers were: Mr Gong Puguang, Vice Minister of Civil Affairs P.R. China, Mr Prof. Tito Boeri – President of the INPS, from Italy, Mr Tomas Burgos, Secretary of State, Ministry of Employment and Social Security, from Spain and Ms Daniela Morosanu, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, from Romania. Among more than 100 participants were senior policy makers from the Consortium relevant ministries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Poland), P. R. China's National People's Congress and State Council as well from EU and Chinese local authorities. The event has joined representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the stakeholders from EU organizations.

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C3 2nd Panel Discussion, December 4th, 2015

EU-CHINA SPRP Component 3 2nd Panel Discussion was held on December 4th, 2015. The main focus was given to the following topic: Experiences on unified standards for calculation of Social Assistance benefits and Social Assistance specific vulnerable groups - services for children, elderly, people with disabilities, with a special focus on poor rural people.

The Panel Discussion was based on the consolidated presentation (which is an attachment to the Panel Discussion report) prepared by Chinese and European experts. The content of the presentations of Chinese and European experts was a key element of the bilateral knowledge exchange meeting between the EU and CN experts held before the Panel Discussion.

The Panel Discussion meeting started with the two presentations done by the Chinese short-term experts Prof. Guo Yu and Prof. Gang Shuge. Then EU short-term expert Ms Larcamioara Corches, PhD from Romania, continued with a presentation on the EU experiences.

The Workshop started with presentations prepared by three CN experts (Prof. Guo Yu, Prof. Gang Shuge and Prof. Zuo Ting) and three EU experts (Mr Davor Dominkus, Mr Mel Cousins and Ms Jadwiga Pauli; who gave presentations on EU experiences). The presentations were followed by the discussion among Chinese and EU experts and policy makers. Some additional comments were made by three CN invited experts from social assistance field.

The aim of the Workshop was a follow up of last year work, as well as a launch for the new activities proposed for year 2016.



EU-CHINA

Social Protection Reform Project
中国-欧盟社会保障改革项目

COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2016 ACTIVITIES

DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS

MoCA delegation visit to Poland and Spain, April 21-26th, 2016

MoCA delegation continued the official visit in Spain. On April 25th Minister Li Liguó has met Ms Fátima Báñez Minister of Employment and Social Security of Spain and Mr Tomás Burgos Secretary of State of Social Security. Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain is one of the key partners from the EU-China SPRP Consortium. During the visit to Spain MoCA delegation has met also Ms Susana Camarero Benítez the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality (MSSSI) of Spain to discuss closer cooperation between the two ministries.

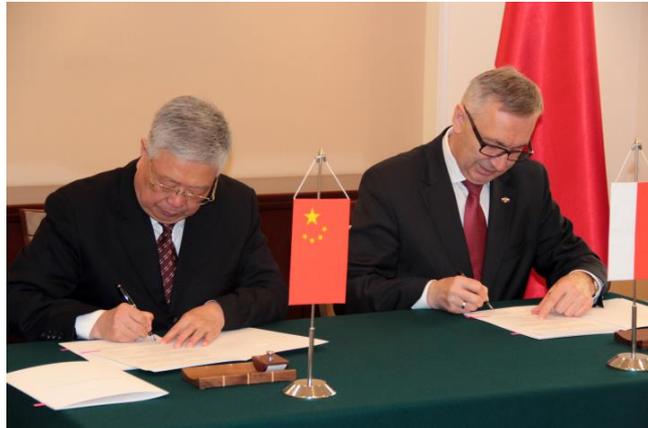
The main goal was of the visit was to strengthen the relations between two ministries cooperating as the main stakeholders within EU-China Social Protection Reform Project focusing on the framework of social assistance.



On the first day of the official visit the Polish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy hosted the High Level Policy Dialog co-chaired by Mr Li Liguó and Mr Stanisław Szwed First Deputy of the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy, and with participation of Ms. Renata Szczęch, Deputy Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy responsible for international affairs and Ms.

Elżbieta Bojanowska, Deputy Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy in charge of social assistance and aging.

The event was followed by a ceremony of signing an executive arrangement between the two ministries which will allow closer cooperation on social assistance between partners in the coming years.



MoCA delegation accompanied by the EU-China SPRP Resident Expert Ms Marzena Breza was visiting the capital city of Warsaw and Krakow to learn the national and regional policy of the social assistance system in Poland.

In Krakow MoCA delegation under the leadership of Minister Li has met Mr Wojciech Kozak, Deputy Marshal of the Małopolska Region and Mr Kazimierz Barczyk, Deputy Chairman of the Sejmik (Regional Parliament). The main points of the discussion were the responsibilities of regional and local authorities in terms of social assistance implementation.

In addition for MoCA delegation several field visits have been organized in Warsaw and Krakow. The delegation has an opportunity to learn some practical examples of social assistance services delivered on local levels including NGO engagement in the services for most vulnerable groups.

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Component 3 Study visit on the framework of social assistance - legal framework; minimum standards of living; services for specific vulnerable groups to Romania, Czech Republic and Poland, June 13-21st, 2016

Component 3 EU-China Social Protection Reform Project study visit has been coordinated on national level by Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly of Romania; Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Czech Republic and Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland (EU-China SPRP Component 3 Coordinator). MoCA delegation visited three EU countries under the leadership of Mr Liu Xitang, Director General of Department of Social Assistance, Ministry of Civil Affairs, P.R.C. (Project Leader of Component 3).

IN ROMANIA

MoCA delegation has begun the EU-China SPRP C3 10 days Study Visit in Romania arranged by the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Protection and Elderly – MoLFSPE in Bucharest. Several experts' meetings have been organized. The main topics for the meetings were social assistance legal framework and social assistance benefits (including support for children, disable people and unemployed). In addition reforms of social assistance system lastly implemented in Romania have been also presented and discussed. One of the key interest of MoCA delegation was the payment and inspection system namely SAFIR system. The overall structure of the assessment procedures and its effectiveness in terms of social assistance frauds and errors has been introduced by Ms Larcamioara Corches, Director General of the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection.



The experts meeting part of the visit was followed by two practical examples of social services providers for elderly and for people with disabilities both located in Bucharest.



IN CZECH REPUBLIC

In Czech Republic (Prague) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs MoCA delegation has been welcomed by Deputy Minister Mrs. Zuzana Jentschke Stocklová who stressed the importance of knowledge exchanges in the field of social assistance between EU and China. The meeting was continued by MoLSA experts' presentations. The main topics were non-contributory social benefit schemes, minimum standards of living and social services for vulnerable groups. The ministerial discussion has been followed by meeting the Labour Office in Prague (municipal level) where the practical knowledge of working with vulnerable groups by using the broaden scope of social assistance benefits and services has been presented to MoCA delegation.



IN POLAND

In Poland MoCA delegation has first visited municipal level - cities Gdynia and Sopot. MoCA delegation was meeting Mr Michał Guć, the Deputy Mayor of Gdynia who shared the main challenges for social assistance policy on the local level (gmina). Mr Guć has stressed the importance of involvement of citizens and different partners (NGOs, Senior Citizens Councils, etc.) in the process of designing and implementing social policy on city level in time of ageing and changing socio-economic environment. Practical arrangements of social services for vulnerable groups have been presented at the Social Assistance Home in Sopot (day care, long-term care and volunteering services). In addition MoCA delegation has visited Centrum Integracji Społecznej in Sopot which is run by an NGO for most vulnerable groups at risk of poverty or homelessness. The central level approach to the legal framework of social assistance, social services and involvement of NGOs has been presented at the Polish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (MRPiPS). At MRPiPS MoCA delegation had been welcomed by Ms Renata Szczęch, Deputy Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy responsible for international affairs. Ms Szczęch expressed the importance of the working level visit which is a follow up of MoCA Minister Mr Li Ligu to Poland in April this year.



The main focus of the discussion has been given to the issue social assistance legal framework, financing arrangements, benefits and services provided on central and local level. Furthermore special governmental programs and legal provisions for NGOs involvement in the social assistance and series for most vulnerable groups have been presented. During the visit final practical example was given based on a very local level in rural areas close to Warsaw (in Wiązowna). During MoCA delegation visit to gmina Wiązowna meeting Mr Janusz Budny, village mayor and management of the social assistance center as well representatives of local NGOs from Wiązowna have been organised. The main focus of the presentation and discussion was given to challenges for social assistance in rural areas including financial capabilities and the role of central government support for local level social assistance providers.



MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS

C3 1st Workshop, March 1st, 2016

EU-CHINA SPRP Component 3 1st C3 Workshop held on March 1st, 2016 focused on the three C3 topics: Legal Framework of Social Assistance and Experiences on unified standards for calculation of Social Assistance benefits and Social Assistance specific groups - services for children, elderly, people with disabilities, with a special focus on poor rural people.

The Workshop started with presentations prepared by three CN experts (Prof. Guo Yu, Prof. Gang Shuge and Prof. Zuo Ting) and three EU experts (Mr Davor Dominkus, Mr Mel Cousins and Ms Jadwiga Pauli; who gave presentations on EU experiences). The presentations were followed by the discussion among Chinese and EU experts and policy makers. Some additional comments were made by three CN invited experts from social assistance field.

The aim of the Workshop was a follow up of last year work, as well as a launch for the new activities proposed for year 2016.



C3 3rd Panel Discussion on governance, policy transmission & monitoring and evaluation processes in social assistance, September 2nd, 2016

On September 2nd, 2016 Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China hosted 3rd Panel Discussion organized within Component3 of the EU-China SPRP project. The event was focused on the discussion of issues related to governance, policy transmission as well monitoring and evaluation processes within social assistance systems. Chinese experts working for EU-China SPRP Component 3 have presented their first outputs on the research undertaken on the issues based on central and local practices and procedures. On the occasion of the event experts coming from the EU member states have shared expertise of several EU countries in regards governance, data management, monitoring and evaluation rules as well institutional organization of policy implementation and cooperation between three main levels (central-regional-local) in the EU. Among more than 30 participants were MoCA officials under the leadership of Mr Liu Xitang Director General of Social Assistance Department, provincial level officials from Civil Affairs Bureaus, scholars, EUD representative and researches. The next round of discussion after in depth research is foreseen for November 2016.



C3 2nd Workshop, December 13th, 2016

On December 13th, 2016 the 2nd C3 Workshop on governance, policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social assistance was hosted by MoCA.

The event gathered MoCA officials central and municipal level, Chinese academics as well EUD representative, EU experts and EU-China SPRP staff.

The Workshop was an occasion to sum up the research done by the Chinese experts this year within Component 3 activities.

Besides sharing Chinese research outputs European practices in the relevant topics has been discussed. EU experts shared best practices experiences mainly from Belgium, France and Greece and identified some policy suggestions for the Chinese social assistance system in the field of social assistance governance, policy transmission between different levels implementing the policy. Finally a set of indications for monitoring and evaluation in the social assistance has been presented.



OTHER ACTIVITIES – COMPONENT 3 RESIDENT EXPERT

C3 local study visit to Jilin Province, July 18th-20th, 2016

On July 18th-20th, 2016 the C3 Team of EU-China SPRP Project supported by MoCA visited Jilin Province (Changchun and Yanji / Yanbian Prefecture). The main target of the visit was to extend the practical knowledge on the social assistance in China of provincial, prefectural, city and local levels. The main points for the discussion were social assistance achievements, challenges and practices. During the visit several institutions (civil affairs and social assistance offices) on different



levels have been visited with detailed interviews of local staff on their daily basis practices and issues. In addition several service based institutions have been visited at prefectural and city levels. Finally a visit to Dibao (minimum guarantee scheme) single household family in a remote area has been organized. This kind of activity support C3 on designing the pilots sites (targets, objects, ect.) for 2017-2018.



EU-China SPRP C3 – ad-hoc seminar meeting on the social assistance arrangements in the view of the IT support used, September 5th, 2016

On September 5th, 2016 following the 3rd Panel Discussion of Component 3 the Center of Monitoring and Verification for Low Income Families of MoCA was hosting an ad-hoc seminar meeting on the IT support within social assistance with the participation of EU experts from the EU-China Social Protection Project (Component 3). During the meeting practices and examples on IT support systems managed on national level by social assistance authorities from Ireland, Romania and Slovenia have been presented. The seminar was an opportunity to exchange knowledge between EU experts (originally from Ireland, Poland, Romania and Slovenia) and MoCA officials under the leadership of Deputy Directors General Mr Chen Xunchui and Mr Li Weidong. The exchange of practices will be continued within next EU-China SPRP Component 3 activities.



C3 local study visit to Qinghai Province, October 17th – 19th, 2016

On October 17th – 19th, 2016 the C3 Team of the EU-China SPRP Project participated to the local study visit in Qinghai Province (city of Xining (Chengdng District), Huangzhong county, Hainan Prefecture – Gonghe County, Huangnan Prefecture – Jianzha County). The delegation was accompanied by Ms Yi Xiaolin, PhD – the EU Delegation to China representative. Under the leadership of MoCA several activities including provincial, city, prefectural, county and township level staff deep interviews and field visits. One of the main objectives was to recognize the achievements and challenges of social assistance in China in a low-income and less populated province with an issue of poverty among residents living in remote areas including ethnic minorities. A visit to a Wubao institutional care house for Tibetan minorities (Jianzha Nursing homes) has been organized. These kind activities within EU-China SPRP Project are a part of identifying the possible pilot sites for C3 work in the next two years of the Project.



C3 local visit to Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs & Jinrongjie street social security affairs agency, December 20th, 2016

C3 team continues knowledge exchanges with social assistance institutions for better understanding practices used and social policy implementation process in China. On December 20th, 2016 the EU-China SPRP C3 team visited Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs & Jinrongjie street social security affairs agency. The visit was organized under the leadership of Ms Dong Minghui, Deputy Director General of Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs. EU-China SPRP Component 3 was represented by EU resident expert Ms Marzena Breza. All lessons learned are valuable for the EU-China SPRP Component 3 activities and better matching EU experiences with the current Chinese social assistance needs and challenges.





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COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2017 ACTIVITIES

DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS

MoCA ministerial visit to Italy, May 24th - 27th, 2017

Delegation of Ministry of Civil Affairs of the P.R. China under the leadership of Mr. Gong Pugang Deputy Minister visited Italy on May 24th - 27th, 2017. During several days visit policy dialog meetings were held between Deputy Minister of MoCA Mr. Gong Pugang and the Italian Under-Secretary of State of Labour and Social Policies, Hon. Franca Biondelli; Mr. Tito Beori President of INPS and Ms. Rita Visini the Regione Lazio Assessor for social policies.

Additionally at the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies was organized a round table with the Directors General focusing on the role of third sector in the social assistance and on social inclusion policy in Italy. During the meeting at INPS a dialog on the Component 3 of the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project (outputs and developments); on the means testing procedure in Italy (ISEE); family allowances; invalidity as well social assistance pension and Home care premium.

MoCA delegation visited CARITAS an NGO acting as a service delivery provider for homeless people, elderly, migrants, etc.

During the visit to Regione Lazio coordination for assistance on the field for old-age people and sick people has been presented.

Final meeting was organized by INPS with the participation of Mr. Gong Pugang and other MoCA delegation members; INPS officials including Mr. Massimo Antichi the EU-China SPRP Project Leader and Component 3 resident expert Ms. Marzena Breza. Discussion was dedicated to further steps in the cooperation on social assistance within EU-China Social Protection Reform Project. Additionally some proposals has been made for deepening cooperation between Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, INPS and MoCA.





C3 MoCA training on social assistance benefits and services legal framework, implementation and monitoring to France, June 11th-24th, 2017

As a part of the 2017 Component 3 of the EU-China SPRP work plan a 2-weeks training to France has been organized for the Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China with participation of central and local government staff. The training was coordinated by Expertise France with cooperation of MoCA and the Component 3 Coordinator Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland and Ms Marzena Breza the EU Resident expert of Component 3 who was also accompanying the MoCA delegation to France. MoCA delegation consisted of 15 participants were officials from Ministry of Civil Affairs with the head of the delegation Mr Liu Yong Deputy Director General of Social Assistance Department and ten provincial level staff - directors of social assistance offices from Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Shandong, Hubei, Guangxi, Chongqing, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Gansu.



The main goal of the training was sharing information on policy design, knowledge and practices in terms of on Social Assistance Benefits and Services Legal Framework, Implementation and Monitoring. During the training following issues were specifically deepened and discussed: experience of French and other EU countries and European institutions European Parliament & Council of Europe – actions done for social cohesion; reporting; reviewing as a part of policy making and designing new policy instruments; European ‘focus’ on comprehensive approach labour and social policy and instruments/benefits – cooperation of labour office with social assistance beneficiaries; Legal framework (national&European approach); Cooperation between different levels of the government; State and NGO within social assistance system; Target groups of social assistance elderly; disabled; children, etc.



During the two weeks training several training sessions, presentations and field visits were organized. Institutions involved in the training included French one located in Paris and Strasbourg (Expertise France; Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; National Family Allowances Fund Autonomy Solidarity Fund (CNAF);



Department Social Assistance Office – Bas-Rhin Region; Public Employment Agency Strasbourg-Hautepierre; Local Family Allowances Fund (CAF) Bas-Rhin Region; School of Social Work in Strasbourg (ESTES- Strasbourg); Obernai – creche & Social Action Center (public institution); and European level like the European Parliament (Commission for Employment and Social Affairs) and Council of Europe (Department of Social Cohesion and Diversity). Beside the governmental level intuitions some NGOs (NGO Caritas France and NGO services Secours Populaire (People’s aid)) contributed to the knowledge and practice exchanges during the training period.

Thanks to the engagement in the training policy makers, EU experts and practitioners in the field of social assistance at the national (French) and EU level, the MoCA delegation had the opportunity for concrete knowledge exchange and sharing practices in a view of challenges for social assistance system in Europe and China.









C3 MoCA study visit on social assistance support for vulnerable groups standards to Romania and Poland, September 13th-20th, 2017

MoCA experts exchange meetings with the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland, September 13th - 20th, 2017
Continuing the work plan foreseen for 2017, Component 3 of the EU-China SPRP Project supported the Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China with EU-China knowledge and practical exchanges. A study visit coordinated by Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland focused on standards and accessibility of benefits and services (for poor people; families with children; elderly and the disabled) in social assistance as well monitoring tools used in social assistance schemes.

IN ROMANIA



MoCA officials (central and provincial level) held several exchanges with central and local government staff as well as took part in a field visits to social services providers (NGOs). The delegation was also hosted by the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection and the Prahova county in Romania where several social assistance institutional support schemes for vulnerable groups and monitoring tools used for social assistance were presented.



IN POLAND

In Poland local Social Assistance Office (Warszawa Praga); day care center and NGO – Otwarte Drzwi have been visited.

The main goal of the study visit was sharing information on policy design, payment and financing schemes, legal and institutional framework as well as defining main challenges for the social assistance.

MoCA delegation had the opportunity to learn the latest achievements of the social assistance system and reform planned in these two countries as well to share knowledge on social assistance progress in China.



C3 MoCA study visit on social assistance: means testing; policy implementation and monitoring to Italy and Belgium, November 30th-December 7th, 2017

Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China having exchanges in Italy with the Italian Institute of Social Security and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies & in Belgium with the Federal Public Service Social Security and the Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration.

Italian Institute of Social Security, Federal Public Service Social Security and the Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration from Belgium hosted the Ministry of Civil Affairs



P.R.China visit organized within Component 3 Social Protection Reform Project on November 30th-December 7th, 2017.

The main focus of the visit was given to social assistance means testing; policy implementation and monitoring. Component 3 of the EU-China SPRP Project through the visit continue supporting the Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China with EU-China knowledge and practical exchanges.

IN ITALY

In Italy the MoCA visit was coordinated by the INPS following issues had been addressed: Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator (ISEE) and its strategic role in the Italian Social Protection system as well as a monitoring tool of the Italian households' wealth and a guide for the evolution of Social Protection policies. "ISEE Simulator" was demonstrated through the INPS webpage. In addition, INPS presented the Italian National Social Assistance register for all the benefits and services provided to each citizen by each institution (public and private, at central and local level). Finally, Social Assistance for specific groups – services for children, families and vulnerable people - allowances for children, motherhood and low-income families were shared during the visit.



IN BELGIUM

In Belgium the MoCA visit was coordinated by the Federal Public Service Social Security and the Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration.

The Federal Public Service Social Security was introducing MoCA delegation to means testing in the three social assistance schemes: minimum income for the elderly, people with disabilities and people on active age and sharing the main assumptions of the Crossroadsbank for Social Security. The Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration presented to MoCA delegation means testing – measures, data base; main achievements as well institutional responsibilities and funding sharing. Finally, poverty reduction policies, main responsibilities and activities undertaken in Belgium were presented.



Moreover, in Belgium few field visits in Gent and in Brussels were organised. In gent MoCA delegation visited the social assistance innovative service delivery at Campus Prince Filip, the local center for public welfare of Ghent and the Care center “Het Heiveld” (providing service flats; local service center Wibier and active volunteers at Wibier).

In Brussels MoCA delegation visited the local center for public welfare of Saint-Gilles (municipality in Brussels). During this visit coordination of social services; participatory approach and collaboration with the private sector as well structure and financing of the local center were presented and discussed. In addition, short visit to services users (cooking services) were organized. The study visit gave an opportunity to MoCA delegation for sharing knowledge and practices on the policy design and policy making as well holding practical exchanges with the central and local social assistance staff and NGOs.

Further cooperation will be continued during the coming activities of the Component 3 SPPR activities.





MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS

4th C3 Panel Discussion, June 29th, 2017

On June 29th, 2017 Ministry of Civil Affairs, the main stakeholder of Component 3 EU-China SPRP hosted the 4th Panel Discussion. The discussion has been chaired by Mr Liu Xitang Director General of Social Assistance Department of MoCA. Welcoming speech was delivered by Mr Lars Gronvald, Head of Development & Co-operation Section, Delegation of the European Union. Among 50 participants were high level officials from MoCA: Ms Chai Mei, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation Department, Mr Liu Yong, Deputy Director General of Social Assistance Department, Ms Jiang Wei, Deputy Director General of Social Assistance Department, Mr Li Wei Dong, Deputy Director General, Center of Monitoring and Verification for Low Income Families of MoCA; local staff from Beijing, Inner Mongolia Autonomous region, Jilin Civil Affairs Bureau, Jiangsu Civil Affairs Bureau, Anhui Civil Affairs Bureau, Guangdong Civil Affairs Bureau, Guizhou Civil Affairs Bureau, Shaanxi Civil Affairs Bureau, Qinghai Civil Affairs Bureau and representatives from Ministry of Finance. The event was supported by Chinese scholars (including experts contributing to the Component 3 EU-China SPRP research activities from the very beginning of the Project) and EU-China SPRP Office representatives. The main goal of the event (morning session) was to present first research outputs on the issues of targeting in social assistance (Prof. Yao Jianping); coordination of social assistance resources (Prof. Zhang Haomiao) and fraud identification and prevention in social assistance (Professor Lin Yi) all experts are contribution to the Component 3 2017 activities. Presentations were followed by comments and suggestions from scholars invited to the event by MoCA. The afternoon session was dedicated to the outputs of the study on social assistance structures of P.R. China -main achievements and challenges - performed by Prof. Guan Xinping. This presentation was followed by comments coming from scholars and local staff. Conclusions of the full day event were presented by Ms Marzena Breza, C3 EU resident expert of EU-China SPRP. The chair underlined the importance of the event in regard to Component 3 pilots activities foreseen to be undertaken in the next month.





C3 3rd Workshop hosted by MoCA, November 24th, 2017

On November 24th, 2017 Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China, the main stakeholder of Component 3 EU-China SPRP hosted the 3rdComponent 3 Workshop within EU-China SPRP Project. The discussion has been chaired by Mr Liu Xitang Director General of Social Assistance Department of



MoCA who also gave his welcoming speech to the participants. Among more the 30 participants were high level officials from MoCA and the Center of Monitoring and Verification for Low Income Families of MoCA; MoCA local staff as well senior Chinese and European experts and academics working in the field of social assistance and EU-China SPRP Office representatives.



Six senior European experts actively contributed to this event. Four of them being civil servants in their country of origin working at the national level agencies i.a. ministries.

The key topics for the presentations, speeches and discussion were optimization of social assistance – procedures and eligibility criteria for social assistance benefits; coordination of overall social assistance resources and fraud in social assistance: identification, coping strategy and prevention.

Three Chinese experts Prof. Yao Jianping, Prof. Zhang Haomiao and Prof. Lin Yi delivered their research outputs on above topics and proposed some policy recommendations in this respect. In parallel EU experts presented EU best practices in relation to targeting beneficiaries and minimum income procedures (Mr Julien van Geertsom and Dr Lacramioara Corches); coordination mechanism in the social assistance including its legal framework (Prof. Heinz-Dietrich Steinmeyer and Mr Jean-Yves Hocquet) as well the procedure and legal basis for preventing and dealing with fraud cases in social assistance (Dr Katharina Hackstein and Mr Stephane Pacaud).

Conclusions of the full day event were presented by Ms Marzena Breza, Component 3 EU resident expert of EU-China SPRP. The chair Mr Liu Xitang hold and closing speech underling the importance of the issues presented and disused and lessons learned from several EU countries.





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COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2018 ACTIVITIES

DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS

Study visit on Social Assistance legal framework; overall resources; social assistance benefits' targeting and development of social services Lithuania and Sweden, May 27th – June 3rd, 2018

Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China – MoCA hold a study visit on Social Assistance legal framework; overall resources; social assistance benefits' targeting and development of social services to Lithuania and Sweden.

LITHUANIA

In Lithuania MoCA was having an exchange meeting with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The main topics of the meeting were: Family policy and demographic strategy, Social services, Social integration of the disabled, Social support for families and children.





The visit was an opportunity to have some knowledge sharing at the local level hosted by the Elektrėnai municipality and Trakai district municipality. The main issues addressed were linked to identification of social assistance beneficiaries, social assistance access criteria, assessment process of benefit applications and fraud prevention. In addition organisation of social services and provision of cash support to deprived people and cooperation between municipalities and NGO's have been presented.





The study visit to Lithuania was supported by performing field visits to Support for the Family and Children Center and Disabled Employment Center both in Trakai. The aspects shared by the staff were: psychosocial assistance; family skills development and socio-cultural services; and positive parenthood training.



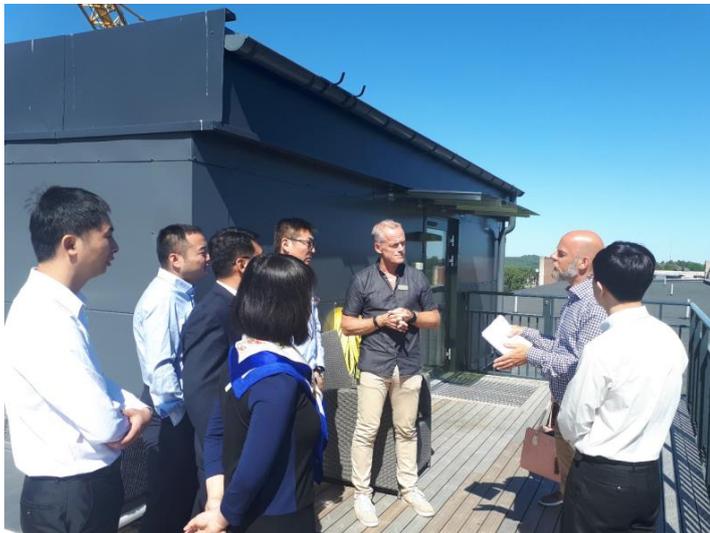


SWEDEN

In Sweden MoCA on the invitation of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs took part in an information and knowledge sharing meeting with Swedish ministerial experts on family policy (i.a. parental insurance and benefits for parents; cash benefits for families with children), social services; and benefits and services for people with disabilities.



The visit was continued by holding a meeting the National Board of Health and Welfare. The topics for presentation and discussion were: social care, support to children and to persons with disabilities. During the visit to Sweden MoCA took part in field visits to Botkyrka kommun (residential care center for vulnerable groups) and Silviahemmet – NGO educating assistant nurses and nurses for elderly.



The study visit gave an excellent opportunity to MoCA delegation for sharing knowledge and practices on the policy design and policy making as well having practical exchanges with the central and local social assistance staff and NGOs.



Study visit on Social assistance and social services for vulnerable groups – standards; targeting; administration and stakeholders to Slovenia and Czech Republic, Dates: October 21st – 28th, 2018

Component 3 SPRP following 2018 work plan organised a study visit to two EU countries.

SLOVENIA

During the visit to Slovenia exchange meeting with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. During the meeting instruction to the social protection system was resented cash benefits and IT system support as well for the social assistance system in Slovenia. Separately special support scheme for vulnerable groups were presented.



Study visit was an opportunity for practical exchanges during the field visits to care centers in Tržič co-provided by different providers (state, municipalities and private-NGOs) and social work center. MoCA delegates have an opportunity to learn the comprehensive approach to vulnerable groups which is used for the social policy implementation.





During the wrap-up meeting main issues learned from Slovenia and applicable for China.

CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic delegates took part in an exchange meeting with the ministerial and local level staff working for social assistance. The main focus was given to social services and social work. Social assistance benefits were presented from the perspective of assessment procedures and standards used for the benefits schemes in Czech Republic.







On the occasion of the study visit to Czech Republic a field visit to social services was organized in Tlokov.



Follow up of the visit will be continued through the coming Component 3 SPRP activities.

Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs P.R. China holding a visit to Poland and Belgium, December 2nd - 9th, 2018

POLAND

Component 3 SPRP following 2018 work plan supported Deputy Minister of MoCA Mr. ZHAN Chengfu visit to Poland and Belgium.

The visit was an occasion for deepening policy dialog between Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R. China and Polish Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, European Commission Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion as well with the federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration of Belgium.

Policy dialog meeting between Deputy Ministers Mr. Marcin Zieleniecki and Mr. Zhan Chengfu was followed by a ceremony of signing Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R. China and Ministry of Family Labour and Social Policy Poland on mutual cooperation in the social assistance field.



During the visit several field visits have been organized.

First one took place in Poland. In Poznan a whole day visits allow the MoCA delegation to have exchanges with the Barka Foundation Headquarter and integration community of Barka and ecological farm in Chudobczyce. In Warsaw a field visit to Social Enterprise Wola was organized to share some experiences on social economy and social cooperatives.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

During the 3 days of the ministerial visit to Belgium first day was dedicated sharing European level practices and knowledge in terms of social policy mainly social assistance and the role of NGOs in the European Union Member States. On this occasion a policy dialog with DG EPML was organized. Meeting with the European Commission was followed by exchanges with European Social Network - an EU umbrella NGO supporting more than 120 social services organisations mostly from Europe.



BELGIUM

After, the visit to Belgium was mainly focusing on policy and practical experiences sharing and having knowledge exchanges with Belgium authorities. A session on organisation of the minimum income assistance in Belgium i.a. on the social protection system, managing structure, financing, law enforcement system and inspection for the minimum income scheme; on the system of social assistance and targeting of the beneficiaries, procedures, methods of verification, social inquiry and



support services facilities; and on innovative methods and experiences to improve the accessibility of public services by the engagement of experts by experiences.

In Belgium MoCA delegation was hosted by the representatives of the King Baudouin Foundation. This meeting was an occasion to learn more on the aims, methods and projects performed within philanthropy actions by the Foundation in Belgium and abroad.

A few field visits in Belgium were arranged by the local center for public welfare of Bruges. This was an opportunity to for MoCA delegation to get some practical knowledge on the facilities provided for elderly people (serving meals), the financing and the decision-making structure of the local centre and its Associations. Visit to Central Kitchen Riddersstove; WZC Ter Potterie; NAH De Nieuwe Notelaar and living entity De Zeven Gaven;

Follow up of the visit will be continued through the coming Component 3 SPRP activities as well on the basis of bilateral cooperation.



MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS

5th Component 3 Panel Discussion, June 23rd, 2018



Social Protection Reform Project Component 3

On June 23rd, 2018 Ministry of Civil Affairs, the main stakeholder of Component 3 EU-China SPRP hosted the 5th Panel Discussion. The discussion has been chaired by Mr Liu Xitang Director General of Social Assistance Department of MoCA. Welcoming speeches were by Mr Liu Xitang and Ms Marzena Breza, Component EU resident expert. Among about 20 participants were high level officials from central and local MoCA, researchers from Beijing and Nanjing universities as well from the Center of Monitoring and Verification for Low Income Families of MoCA.

The event was supported by Chinese scholars (including experts contributing to the Component 3 EU-China SPRP research activities from the very beginning of the Project) and EU-China SPRP Office representatives. The main goal of the event was to present first research outputs on the issues related to social services (Prof. Tian Rong) and dissemination policy of social assistance (Prof. Gang Shuge). Presentations on these topics were followed by comments and suggestions from the EU expert present Ms Olivia Rusandu and Mr Jan de Coninck. The panel discussion gave an opportunity to exchange knowledge and issues related in kind benefits and information policy based on the best practices in the EU countries.

Conclusions of the event were presented by Ms Marzena Breza followed by Director Liu Xitang suggestions on the next steps to be undertaken within the SPRP Project.





Component 3 launching four pilot sites, Beijing, August 23rd, 2018

Component 3 SPRP together with Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China following 2018 work plan organised a kick off meeting for the pilots activities within the EU-China SPRP Project. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Liu Xitang, Director General of the Social Assistance Department of MoCA and Ms Marzena Breza, EU resident expert of Component 3. Among 20 participants were central, provincial and local MoCA staff members and Prof. Lin Mingang presenting the main outputs of the research conducted in four pilot sites (baseline reports). Representatives of the local pilot authorities introduced the main targets of the pilot programs. EUD representative and SPRP Beijing Office staff were joining the event and discussion held.

Component 3 Pilot sites were chosen among several provinces and considering their different socio-economic characteristics. Component 3 pilot projects are being implemented in four regions: Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Hohhot City, Xincheng District; Jilin Province, Da'an City (county level); Jiangsu Province, Zhangjiagang City (county level); Sichuan Province, Dazhou City, Dachuan District.



Social Protection Reform Project Component 3

Prior to the Component 3 pilot kick of meeting several activities were already undertaken by MoCA, Component 3 team and Chinese scholars like: research on the possible pilot programs (drafted by Prof. Guan Xiping from Nankai University); baseline reports prepared under the leadership of prof. Lin Mingang from Nanjing University and pilot operational programs individualized for four pilot sites with the main input coming from local MoCA.

The main goal of the four pilot projects is to implement new instruments and methods in the social assistance scheme depending on the local challenges identified by the groups of researchers working together with MoCA. The new approach to social assistance benefits and services will included the lesson learned from the EU-China knowledge and practice exchanges reached throughout the Project activities (research, policy dialogs, trainings, study visits, experts' missions, etc.). Each pilot sites decided on different pilot program however outputs of this exercise should bring reforms proposals in the overall social assistance system in China.



4th Component 3 Workshop on standards in the social assistance benefits, social services scheme and publicity of social assistance policy, September 25th, 2018

On September 25th, 2018 Ministry of Civil Affairs, the main stakeholder of Component 3 EU-China SPRP hosted the 4th Workshop. The discussion was co-chaired by Ms Jiang Wei, Deputy Director General of Social Assistance Department of MoCA. Welcoming speeches were delivered by Mr Liu Xitang and Ms Marzena Breza, Component 3 EU resident expert. Among some 30 participants were high level officials from central and local MoCA, as well as from the Center of Monitoring and Verification for Low Income Families of MoCA and Chinese researchers and scholars. The event was supported by Chinese scholars (including - experts contributing to the Component 3 EU-China SPRP research activities and EU-China SPRP Office representatives. The main goal of the event was to present first research outputs on the issues related to social services (Prof. Tian Rong) and dissemination policy of social assistance (Prof. Gang Shuge). Presentations on these topics were followed by comments and suggestions from the EU experts, Ms. Camille Lambinon and Mr. Christian Moutier and Mr. Pavel Janeček on the overall standards of social assistance benefits and services. The Workshop gave an opportunity to exchange knowledge on issues related to in-kind benefits and information on policy based on best practices in the EU countries and preliminary policy recommendation for China.

The main conclusion of the event is to continue work on development of social services schemes in China as a complementary approach to the existing programs of social assistance in China.





2018 – Training session for C3 pilot sites MoCA staff , Beijing, September 25th, 2018

Continuing the EU-China exchanges on practices and knowledge in the field of social assistance a training session for local staff implementing C3 pilots was organized.

EU experts (Ms. Camille Lambinon, Mr. Christian Moutier and Mr. Pavel Janeček) were providing EU practices input on targeting vulnerable groups, setting standards and involving social organizations in the overall social assistance system. Special focus was given to the data exchange and existing data base of social assistance and their use for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The first training offered to the local staff was aiming to share the practical examples of dealing with issues at grassroots level. One of the main interests of local MoCA staff was to share administrative and procedural practices and challenges when identifying people living in poverty.

Some other training session for the local pilot sites are undertaken under the coordination of Nanjing University Research Center for Social Security and provided by Chinese leading experts in the field of social assistance.





PILOT ACTIVITIES

INNER MONGOLIA, HOHHOT, XINCHENG DISTRICT, September 26th - 27th, 2018

September 26th - 27th, 2018 Component 3 SPRP Visit to Inner Mongolia Province – EU-China exchanges on social assistance at the local level

EU experts and C3 SPRP team took part in the visit to pilot site in Inner Mongolia Province to Hohhot city. The main target was to keep dialogue open on the main current and future Chinese characteristics for social assistance by sharing EU countries examples. The visit was organized under the leadership of Social Assistance Department of MoCA with a great support coming from provincial and city level MoCA of Hohhot city. The main aim of the visit was to give an opportunity to the EU and Chinese side for practical exchanges and learning on existing solutions in social assistance standards, administration and governance. This visit was an opportunity for the EU experts to learn more on the main challenges in social assistance implementation which will be taken into account when providing policy recommendations to China on specific topics.





SICHUAN PROVINCE, DAZHOU CITY, DACHUAN, January 24th - 25th, 2018

January 24th - 25th, 2019 Component 3 SPRP Visit to Sichuan province Dazhou/Dachuan– EU-China exchanges on social assistance at the local level

Representative of the Component 3 Coordinator and the C3 SPRP team took part in a visit to pilot site in Sichuan Province to Dazhou - Dachuan District. The main target was to keep dialogue on the Component 3 SPRP pilot site program and activities. The visit was an opportunity for an open exchange on the main current and future Chinese characteristics for social assistance also by sharing some EU countries examples. The visit was organized under the leadership of Social Assistance Department of MoCA with a great support coming from provincial and city level MoCA of Dazhou City especially Dachuan District. The main aim of the visit was to give an opportunity to the EU and Chinese side for practical exchanges and learning on existing solutions in social assistance standards in terms of data collecting, application procedures including evaluation and administration. This visit was an opportunity to gather several local partners dealing with social assistance at the grassroots level. Key part of the presentations and discussion was focused on improving social assistance delivery. The SPRP side was encouraging to take some actions for developing benefits in kind especially for the elderly and disabled people.

The C3 pilot will continue for the next following months and will be evaluated by mid-year together with other three C3 pilots.



OTHER ACTIVITIES – COMPONENT 3 RESIDENT EXPERT



EU-China SPRP meeting Beijing Women’s Federation, Beijing, April 27th, 2018

On April 27th, 2018 Beijing Women’s Federation Association for International Exchange hosted an international exchange meeting with EU-China Social Protection Reform Project (EU-China SPRP). The meeting was chaired and Ms Wang Shuixia (President of Beijing Women’s Association for International Exchange) and by Ms Hou Huirong (Vice President Beijing Women’s Association for International Exchange). EU-China SPRP was represented by Ms Marzena Breza (initiator of the meeting) and Mr Michele Bruni. Introduction to the role of social assistance in China in reference to women was given by Prof. Gang Shuge the director of the Women’s Research Center of Beijing Academy of Social Sciences.

During the meeting several the topics have been discussed. The main focus was given to research outputs on women’s socio-economic conditions; women’s rights; methods of support women’s in Beijing (health care) as well women’s successful entrepreneurship trough start-ups. Some results of the international cooperation between China and several countries were also presented. SPRP experts shared some key messages on the social policy (i.a. challenges on the ageing processes in Europe) and its impact on women in the EU countries. Some further policy reforms and initiatives on women’s empowerment have been presented.

The exchange between SPRP and Women’s Federation will be continued trough some activities planned for 2018.



Component 3 represented at the XIV International Forum on Social Security in Dalian, September 15th-16th, 2018

The event was organized by China Association of Social Security, FES Beijing Representative Office and ILO Country Office for China and Mongolia. On the invitation of the CASS Ms. Marzena Breza C3RE was provided a speech on the topic: “Social Assistance Schemes in the EU – some challenges and lessons learned



for China”. The event was gathering main researchers from the social security fields and was an opportunity to have extended discussion on the main challenges in terms of social policy in China.



Component 3 EU resident expert at the Annual Meeting of Dialogues among Civilizations Forum – Dialog on the role of social organizations in modern society, September 21st, 2018

Based on the mutual cooperation EU resident expert of the Component 3 SPRP took part in the event co-organized by Beijing Women’s Federation. This event was stressing the role of social organizations in terms of current challenges of the society.

Component 3 contributed to the 2nd East Asian Social Policy & Social Development Forum, Beijing, October 14th, 2018

Resident expert for Component 3 supported with a speech the 2nd East Asian Social Policy & Social Development Forum organized in October in Beijing by Prof. Yao Jianping, a social assistance expert working for the C3 SPRP research activities. This event was an opportunity to have knowledge exchanges with a few Asian countries academics on social policy and its main challenges for the region.



Social Assistance Comprehensive Reform Pilot Area Exchange Conference -

Training session at the Nanjing University for the C3 SPRP pilot sites, Nanjing, October 15th, 2018

Nanjing University with cooperation of the Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R. China hosted a training session for the four pilot sites taking part in Component 3 SPRP. In the event took part several other MoCA staff members from Shanghai, Changning District; Jiangsu Province, Siyang County; Guangxi Autonomous Region, Linshan County; Hunan Province, Xiangtan City and Shandong Province, Linyi County.

This event was an opportunity to have knowledge exchanges between different MoCA staff members working on social assistance to share main challenges, targets and methods used for the current social assistance scheme in China.

Prof. Lin Mingang coordinating the C3 pilot sites introduced to the audience baseline reports and main issues related social assistance delivery in C3 SPRP pilot sites. Local MoCA staff gave presentations on their pilot programs and main achievements.

The C3 pilots will continue to support local MoCA by offering trainings and testing new methods used for the social assistance delivery.





Social Protection Reform Project
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COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2019 ACTIVITIES

DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS

Study visit on Social Assistance legal framework on benefits and social services schemes;
social economy towards vulnerable groups to Spain & Portugal, May 8th – 15th, 2019

Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China – MoCA hold a study visit on benefits and social services schemes; social economy towards vulnerable groups to Spain & Portugal.

SPAIN

In Spain the visit was supported by the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security and the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare.



During the visit to Spain exchange meeting with the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security. During the meeting introduction to the legislation, Spanish Strategy of the Social Economy 2017-2020, entities dealing with the Social Economy in Spain.

In addition a field visit to the Special Employment Center that manages the Ilunion Atrium hotel was organized to share the practical examples of integration of disabled people on the labour market.



At the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare an introduction on the policy on social services for vulnerable groups was delivered by Ms. Ana Isabel Lima Fernandez Secretary of State for Social Services. MoCA delegation got an extensive knowledge on the Disability Policies and on minimum income scheme in Spain. In addition, a visit to Servicios Centrales del Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales (Imserso) was organised which was an excellent opportunity for the delegates to learn on the technologies and methods used for disabled and elderly people to ensure their social inclusion.

PORTUGAL

In Portugal the MoCA visit was coordinated by the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security with a great support from the Social Security Institute (ISS). During the visit an exchange meeting with the ISS staff members were organised. The main topics of the discussion focused on legal framework on social actions; procedures and decision-making processes; and Social Integration Income.



National Line of Social Emergency 144 - Specific service in the scope of social action – was also presented.

The Ministry held also a meeting on social economy. An example of Cooperativa António Sérgio for Social Economy (CASES) was presented. The mission of CASES is to recognize, promote, energize, strengthen and qualify the social economy sector. Based on an effective partnership between the State and organizations representing the social economy sector and assuming the legal form of a "public interest cooperative", CASES aims to promote and strengthen the social economy sector by deepening the cooperation between the State and organizations, as well as the pursuit of policies in the area of volunteering.

In addition a field visit to Visit to the Centre of Social Emergency Housing. Social emergency housing which aims to provide for urgent response regarding transitional and temporary housing for citizens in a situation of social emergency, in cases of extreme vulnerability and lack of protection.





Study visit was an opportunity for practical exchanges as well knowledge especially in the field of social assistance legislation for vulnerable groups.

MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS

5th Component 3 Workshop on Legal Framework on Social Assistance - Social Services Provisions and Social Organizations in the Social Assistance, May 12th, 2019

On March 12th, 2019 Ministry of Civil Affairs, the main stakeholder of Component 3 EU-China SPRP hosted the 5th Workshop. The discussion was co-chaired by Mr. by Mr Liu Xitang, Director General of the Social Assistance Department of MoCA and Ms. Marzena Breza, Component 3 EU resident expert. Among some 25 participants were high level officials from central and local MoCA, as well as from the Center of Monitoring and Verification for Low Income Families of MoCA, EUD representative and Chinese researchers i.a. from the Beijing Academy of Social Science. The event was supported by Chinese scholars including - experts contributing to the Component 3 EU-China SPRP research activities and EU-China SPRP Office representatives. The main goal of the event was to present research outputs on the specific topics related legal provisions on social services and the main providers – social organisations. Assistant Professor Peng Zhaiwen from the Sun Yat-Sen University and Prof. Zhang Hongmiao from the Sichuan University delivered speeches on the topics by presenting Chinese experience in regulating the social services and social organisations in the law and regulations at the central and local levels.

Chinese experts' contributions were commented by some EU experts. The EU side share EU MS experiences in reference to supplementing social assistance schemes by social services (benefits in kind) and empowering social organisations in social services delivery. On the occasion of the Workshop Ms. Kim Schryvers from the Belgium Ministry of Social Integration and Ms. Alexandra Nemes from the Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice shared their country experiences

which will be elaborated in the best practices reports including policy suggestions to be submitted to MoCA.

The Workshop was an opportunity to exchange knowledge on the practical examples of social services dedicated to vulnerable groups in China and on best practices in the EU countries as well as preliminary policy recommendations.

The main conclusion of the event is to continue development of social assistance law in China in a form of comprehensive legal act which specifies the social assistance scheme including the scope of social services and their providers.





Component 3 SPRP pilot conclusion and summing up workshop, July 3rd, 2019

Component 3 SPRP together with Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China following 2019 work plan organised a summing-up Workshop focusing on the pilots activities undertaken within the EU-China SPRP Project. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Liu Xitang, Director General of the Social Assistance Department of MoCA and Ms. Marzena Breza, EU resident expert of Component 3. Among more than 30 participants were central, provincial and local MoCA staff members and in particular Prof. Lin Mingang from Nanjing University presenting the main outputs of the research conducted in four pilot sites and Prof. Guan Xinping from Nankai University on the main challenges for the social assistance in China after 2020. The meeting was supported by Mr. Kang Peng, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, MoCA; senior academics from Renmin University, Beijing Academy of Social Science and North China Electric Power University from Beijing. Representatives of the local pilot authorities introduced the main outputs of experiment activities of the pilot programs. EUD representative and SPRP Beijing Office staff were joining the event and discussion held. Ms. Breza gave a speech on social assistance challenge in the EU. Mr. Jean-Victor Gruat, EU resident expert of Component 1 introduced to the audience main outcomes from the Component 1 pilot implementation. Component 3 pilot projects are being implemented in four regions: Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Hohhot City, Xincheng District; Jilin Province, Da'an City (county level); Jiangsu Province, Zhangjiagang City (county level);

Sichuan Province, Dazhou City, Dachuan District. Pilot experimentation included research and assessment of the real needs of local social assistance schemes in the pilot sites, then setting the targets and programs for each of the four pilots and continuing with monitoring and evaluation of the whole process. In general all pilot key activities included training sessions for the social assistance staff and implementation experiments activities like working capacity index, paper less social assistance examinations; implementing social assistance integrated data base and cross – data banks at local level as well delegating power to be closer to the grassroots level. All activities undertaken in the four pilots benefited from the IT solutions being now implemented in the operational activities of the social assistance offices different levels.

The overall evaluation of the component 3 SPRP pilots is included in the report coordinated by Nanjing University (including local research team from four pilot sites) and will be made available from the project website in the coming months.





PILOT ACTIVITIES

SICHUAN PROVINCE, DAZHOU/DACHUAN CITY, January 24-25th, 2019

January 24th - 25th, 2019 Component 3 SPRP Visit to Sichuan province Dazhou/Dachuan– EU-China exchanges on social assistance at the local level

Representative of the Component 3 Coordinator and the C3 SPRP team took part in a visit to pilot site in Sichuan Province to Dazhou - Dachuan District. The main target was to keep dialogue on the

Component 3 SPRP pilot site program and activities. The visit was an opportunity for an open exchange on the main current and future Chinese characteristics for social assistance also by sharing some EU countries examples. The visit was organized under the leadership of Social Assistance Department of MoCA with a great support coming from provincial and city level MoCA of Dazhou City especially Dachuan District. The main aim of the visit was to give an opportunity to the EU and Chinese side for practical exchanges and learning on existing solutions in social assistance standards in terms of data collecting, application procedures including evaluation and administration. This visit was an opportunity to gather several local partners dealing with social assistance at the grassroots level. Key part of the presentations and discussion was focused on improving social assistance delivery. The SPRP side was encouraging to take some actions for developing benefits in kind especially for the elderly and disabled people.

The C3 pilot will continue for the next following months and will be evaluated by mid-year together with other three C3 pilots.





JIANGSU PROVINCE, ZHANGJIAGANG, March 14-15th, 2019

March 14th - 15th, 2019 Component 3 SPRP Visit to Jiangsu province Zhangjiagang – EU-China exchanges on social assistance at the local level

Representatives of the Component 3 SPRP team together with an EU expert Ms. Kim Schryvers from the Belgium Ministry of Social Integration took part in a visit to pilot site in Jiangsu Province to Zhangjiagang. The main target was to keep dialogue on the Component 3 SPRP pilot site program and activities undertaken locally by civil affairs offices. The visit was an opportunity for an open exchange on the main current and future Chinese characteristics for social assistance also by sharing EU countries practices mainly in social services and cash benefits schemes for vulnerable groups. The visit was organized under the leadership of Social Assistance Department of MoCA with a great support coming from provincial and city level MoCA of Zhangjiagang City. The main aim of the visit was to give an opportunity to the EU and Chinese side for practical exchanges and learning on existing solutions in social assistance standards in terms of data collecting, application procedures including evaluation and administration.

Local MoCA staff shared with the EU team several practical arrangements of vulnerable children care facilities, support offered toward elderly (including digital support and free lunches) and social organization incubator. Special attention was given to the migrant workers so called new residents since 2/3 of the whole population of Zhangjiagang are having migrant background (including construction workers). This is mainly due the labour opportunities the city is offering workers of different skills. The city is providing great support to the new comers and their families including children to facilitate medical and education services for them.

This visit was an opportunity to gather several local partners dealing with social assistance at the grassroots level including social workers. Key part of the presentations and discussion was focused on improving social assistance delivery. The SPRP side was encoring to take some actions for developing benefits in kind especially for the elderly and disabled people.

Zhangjiagang is also sharing their capacities (knowledge and practice sharing) with some other less developed regions in terms i.a. new agricultural techniques in the organic production (visit to a training center). The C3 pilot will continue for the next following months and will be evaluated by mid-year together with other three C3 pilots.





JILIN PROVINCE, DA'AN CITY, April 23rd-24th, 2019

April 23rd - 24th, 2019 Component 3 SPRP Visit to Jilin province Da'An – EU-China exchanges on social assistance at the local level

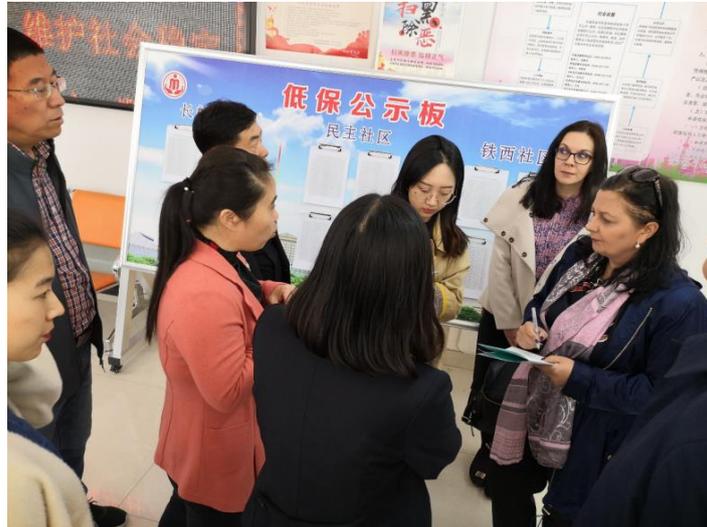
Resident expert of the Component 3 SPRP together with an EU expert Ms. Alexandra Nemes from the Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Justice took part in a visit to pilot site in Jilin Province to Da'An county. The main target was to continue dialogue on the Component 3 SPRP pilot site program and activities undertaken locally by civil affairs offices. The visit was an opportunity for an open exchange on the main current and future Chinese characteristics for social assistance also by sharing EU countries practices mainly in social services for vulnerable groups and cash benefits schemes. The visit was organized under the leadership of Social Assistance Department of MoCA with a great support coming from provincial and city level MoCA of Da'An. The main aim of the visit was to give an opportunity to the EU and Chinese side for practical exchanges and learning on existing solutions in social assistance standards in terms of data collecting, means testing, application procedures including evaluation and administration. During the visit working capacity index was presented. Local MoCA staff gave an introduction the new implemented procedure for dissemination of information on social assistance benefits.

Da'An MoCA staff shared with the EU team several practical arrangements at the civil affairs street office and village level office. The local MoCA staff acknowledge the need for encouraging more social workers to be involved in the social assistance scheme as well social organizations for social service delivery. The SPRP side was encouraging to take some actions for developing benefits in kind especially for the children, elderly and disabled people.

It should be stressed that the importance of the social assistance system and its challenges in Da'An county and in Jilin province is highly acknowledge by the local high level government officials – the SPRP delegation for all the exchange meeting held was accompanied by Deputy Director

General of Civil Affairs of Jilin Province, Deputy Mayor of Da'An city and directors of the social assistance divisions – provincial, county and city level.

The C3 pilot will continue for the next following months and will be evaluated by mid-year together with other three C3 pilots.





Social Protection Reform Project
中国-欧盟社会保障改革项目



Social Protection Reform Project
中国-欧盟社会保障改革项目

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