

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 presented 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 Ruddersstove; 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

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.

Prior to the Component 3 pilot kick off 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 Xinping 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 include 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 site 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, XINCENG 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 grassroot 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
中国-欧盟社会保障改革项目