

Social Protection Reform Project

Aide-Mémoire 2019



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

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Relevant Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AAI	Active Ageing Index
ACFTU	All-China Federation of Trade Unions
ACWF	All-China Women's Federation
ADECRI	French Agency for the Development and Coordination of International relations
AFPA	French Agency for Adult Vocational Training
ALMP	Active Labour Market Policies
ASEAN	Association of South East Asia Nations
BFW	Beijing Federation of Women
C1	Project Component One
CEC	China Enterprise Confederation
CASS	China Academy of Social Science
CISS	Centre for International Social Security Studies
EN3S	French National School of Higher Social Security Studies
EUD	European Union Delegation
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
HLE	High Level Event
ICC	International cooperation centre of the NDRC
ILASS	Institute of Latin America Social security (CASS)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMC	Internal Management Committee
ISS	Institute of Social Security (Renmin University)
ISSA	International Social Security Association
MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MoCA	Ministry of Civil Affairs
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MoHRSS	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
RMB	Renminbi yuan
ROM	Results oriented monitoring mission
SPRP	Social protection reform project
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
VYV	French Mutual benefit Health insurance group

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1. Executive summary of 2018

1.1. Horizontal activities

The following sections report the executive summary of the horizontal activities and of the activities carried out by each of the project Component.

1.1.1. Visibility activities performed

In relation to the visibility activities, the Horizontal Secretariat carried out all activities according to the 2018 Activity Plan. The Horizontal Secretariat recruited the selected supplier for the production of customized communication tools and gadgets, such as:

- brochures;
- leaflets;
- cotton shoppers;
- notebooks and pens;
- USB pen-drives.

All the gadgets customized with the Project logo have been disseminated during all the project events in Rome:

- the 2nd Coordination Meeting held in Rome on 1st December 2017
- the C2 Training Programme “Financing the social security system in an ageing society” held in Rome and Milan on 1st - 15th July, 2018
- C1 Training: “Effects and Tendency of Income Redistribution Policy” held in Rome and Milan on 14th - 28th, October.

The Project Brochure commissioned by SISPI to incorporate the content updates and the new information, after consultation with the Project Leader and all the Consortium members, is under circulation.

Also the Beijing local office has commissioned visibility materials with project logo to be disseminated during Project events in China, such as Project Leaflets, Project Blue Notebook, Aide Memoire in English, Aide-Mémoire in Chinese.

Regarding the last joint Newsletter, focused on general arguments, we are finalizing the last updates; each Component keeps on producing more specific and scientific quarterly Newsletter. Both Component Newsletter and official Newsletter are bilingual; they have been shared among all contacts and uploaded to the Project Website, ensuring their dissemination to the target audience. Meanwhile, each Resident Expert has drafted and disclosed quarterly Component Newsletters.

Since June 2017, the Project website is hosted in a server located in China, granting an easier access to all the users from China. The official Project Website is now managed by a Chinese webmaster, who provides server hosting and is in charge of daily maintenance and update of the webpages. Horizontal Secretariat and Local staff are entitled to require uploads of new contents to the webmaster as far as new events or updating related to the project arise. Actually, it is published both in English and Chinese language, respectively at the following web addresses www.euchinasprp.eu/index.php/en/ and www.euchinasprp.eu/index.php/cn/.

As far as the Directory of Contacts is concerned, it has been updated according to the information collected from the Consortium Members and Beijing Project staff in November.

1.1.2. Management of local office in Beijing

The Horizontal Secretariat is always supporting the local staff in the daily project management, in order to speed up the process of payment of salaries to the local staff, the office rent and other suppliers. Among the others:

- Support in the preparation of documents and certification required by EU audit
- Support in the preparation of documents and certifications for the experts participation to the project events, both local and international ones
- Support to the PL in the preparation of financial documents
- Definition, in agreement with the PL, of ad hoc collaboration and methodologies tools
- Organization of institutional meetings (PAC, IMC, Trainings, Visibility Events)
- Preparation of kits for the European Experts participating to project events and for Chinese Participants to European events with logistic references and dissemination material
- Support in the management of EU – Consortium relations

At the same time, through the Representative Office, SISPI has been able to easily provide petty cash to the Financial Assistant in order to cover the daily office costs and expenses.

The project headquarters, located at Fullink Plaza Building, is fully operative; once the extension of the Project has been approved, SISPI provided to extend both the local office rent contract and the related contracts in line with the project end, i.e. 31st August, 2019.

1.1.3. Horizontal events

The Horizontal Secretariat provided the usual logistical support for the organization of official meetings held in 2018, including payments of per diems and purchase of return flight tickets to the attendants, in particular for:

- the 2nd Coordination Meeting held in Rome on 1st December 2017
- the 4th Project Advisory Committee held in Beijing on 6th February 2018

- the 8th Internal Management Committee held in Rome on 24th May 2018

SISPI provided support to INPS as Project Leader, to organize the Coordination meeting in Rome held on 1st December and hosting both European Consortium Partners and delegations of the main Chinese stakeholders (NDRC, MoF and MoCA).

Moreover Sispi provided support to INPS and to Expertise France that, respectively as Project Leader and as Component 1 Secretariat, were entrusted to organize the C1 Training: “Effects and Tendency of Income Redistribution Policy” held in Rome and Milan on 14th - 28th, October.

1.1.4. Coordination and monitoring

Coordination and monitoring activities follow the ones already realized in the previous years of the project. In particular, for the Coordination and Monitoring of this Project, the Consortium foresees the following activities and tools, performed mainly by the Project Leader with the support of the Component Coordinators and the Project Secretariats:

- *Project Work Plan Management*, it includes the planning of activities related to the 3 Components and the horizontal section during the entire fourth year of the Project. This plan has been prepared by the Components and the Secretariats under the coordination of the Project Leader at the beginning of 2018 and it has been approved during the 4th Project Advisory Committee held in Beijing on 6th February 2018. The project work plan is defined on yearly basis with the close collaboration of Chinese counterparts, in order to be sure that the Project keeps following their needs and requests.
- *Missions’ Management*: the process for the selection of short-term European expert and the template as reference for their qualification (Term of Reference), stays the same as for the previous years of the Project. Each TOR template has been modified by the Resident Expert according to the need related to each specific activity to be performed. The recruitment of short-term Chinese experts has followed the same procedure, mutatis mutandis. In particular, the selection has been conducted in China, in agreement between the relevant Resident Experts and main Chinese stakeholders. The Consortium, on the other hand, continues to follow the new operative procedures for the selection and the hiring of short-term experts in order to better satisfy the need of smoothness and simplicity, always ensuring the transparency and the fairness that the project requires.
- *Project Management and Knowledge Sharing Tools*: the project management and knowledge sharing activities have been simplified through the realization of dedicated informatics tools. The Project Secretariats managed efficiently and smoothly supporting activities thanks to the following tools:
 - Project Website (www.euchinasprp.eu/cn) – the new project website provides to target audience improved and updated webpages and functionalities. The daily management is assured by a Chinese webmaster, who promptly proceed with the uploading of web pages, documents, main news and events realized, both in English and in Chinese.

- Management of the electronic archive of project documents - the *Shared Area*, created within the project website, is available for all Consortium members who have requested the access to share/download project documents.
- Project Newsletters, are composed on regular basis and uploaded on the website:
 - Official Newsletter - a brief overview of the activities performed during the reference period within the Project, prepared every six months by the Horizontal Secretariat, supported by INPS and local staff
 - Scientific Component Newsletter - detailed Component Newsletter on a quarterly basis drafted by each Resident Expert
- The Directory of contacts, collection of data coming from all Consortium members, has been uploaded in the Shared area of the Project website and promptly updated once any change or integration is required.
- *Issues & Risk Management*: as done in previous years, the collaboration and communication among Project Leader, Component Coordinators and Consortium Partners have been kept at high level in order to find solutions on a daily basis to all operative and managerial issues related to such a complex Project. Under this context, one IMC meeting took place during the 2018, in order to keep all the Consortium Partners aligned about the project issues, the solutions and the follow up activities.

Under the scientific point of view, the monitoring of this Project has been performed, following the request of the European Delegation in China during the past Project Advisory Committee, through a Component related dashboard to be sent on quarterly basis by each Resident Expert and Component Coordinator. This table has been improved in order to allow easy reading and understanding of project intermediary outputs and milestones based on the time framework and provide in one document a summary of all the main activities performed in a defined period (quarter). The operational purpose is to track clearly and briefly, against the approved activity plan, what has been done, what has been postponed and what are the ongoing activities. The Project Leader, in collaboration with the Resident Experts and according to the proposals shared by the EUD, has reframed the former dashboard template and the new one is already in use.

- *Project Monitoring*: this activity aimed to monitor the overall progress of the Project. Every six months each Component Coordinator, supported by the Resident Expert, produce a “Component Status Report” on the progress of the work stream to be shared with the Project Leader. On the basis of the three Component Status Reports, the Project Leader drafts the Project Status Report, organizing collected information in an effective way and including also horizontal activities together with other project common information. In this way, coherence and adherence to project reports required by EU Commission Visibility Guidelines are guaranteed.

1.1.5. Task Force

Background

During its meeting on the 6th February 2018, the Project Advisory Committee expressed the desire that project activities be better coordinated among components, so as to ensure internal coherence and identify the potential for synergies. The Project leader therefore decided to establish within the project office in Beijing a Task Force on Technical Coherence and Synergies, which took effect on the 20th April 2018 after being approved by the EUD.

The Task Force contributes to Result R1 of the project intervention logic, with the following indicator attached: “A Task Force to ensure coherence and synergies in project intervention is established, which contributes to enhancing the level of policy dialogue on social protection reform between the EU and China”.

Based in Beijing, the Task Force includes members from each of the three project components as well as from the Project office. The Resident expert for Component 1 acts as Convener for the Task Force. The assistant for Component 1 acts as Secretary to the Task Force. The list of The Task Force reports to the Project leader.

Meetings

The Task Force members held a first informal meeting on the 6th March 2018, where they reviewed and discussed the then proposed terms of reference, in order to anticipate on activities those would entail. During a second meeting, held on the 26th April 2018, the Task Force reviewed and adopted its action plan for the year 2018. When meeting on the 11st October 2018, the Task Force reviewed progress made against its 2018 Plan of activities, and discussed practical technical issues related to the implementation of some of the above.

Outputs and Findings

The task force action plan for 2018 is summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1 – Task Force plan of activities, 2018

TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTIVITIES 2018
1. To ensure that the project provides appropriate responses to the main problems and needs of the Chinese social protection system identified in the Grant application form (annex I)	1.1 Establish inventory of project works addressing each of the 7 Problem areas, per component
2. To ensure that the project addresses the cross-cutting issues identified in the Grant application form (annex II)	2.1 Documenting project works addressing each of the 4 Cross-cutting issues
	2.2 Draft technical note on Disability
3. To ensure that activities conducted under one Component benefit to and from inputs by other interested components (cross-fertilization)	3.1 Systematic exchange of information and mutual participation in activities
4. To review respective findings and recommendations of the project components on similar or connected issues, with a view to ensure their internal coherence	4.1 Draw table of interaction among component based topical reviews
	4.2 Compare recommendations on connected topics from various components
5. To produce its own analytical works and publications on issues it considers of relevance for project coherence and quest for synergies	5.1 Prepare joint publication on Ageing
	5.2 Produce project Memorabilia
	6.1 Develop a joint bibliography by topic
	6.2 Continue publication of project statistics

6. To look after the compilation, analysis and publication of statistical and other data and materials supporting project coherence and synergies	6.3 Complete technical notes for C1 - C3, start technical notes for C2
7. Within the limits inherent to the project objectives, procedures and means of action, to propose and implement appropriate action and activities to promote its overall coherence and synergies	7.1 Contribute to project visibility event on occasion of Elderly Day
8. To ensure that compatible formats are used for similar outputs from the various components (including Technical notes)	8.1 Review format of technical notes to ensure coherence
	8.2 Design appropriate filing system

Task Force activities are essentially work in progress. In addition to the general information provided under the project website, interim results are accessible through the project website <https://www.euchinasprp.eu/en/horizontal-en/project-memorabilia-en>.

i. Problem Areas

The Grant application form had identified (pp. 7 & 8) seven areas for problems and needs encountered by the Chinese social protection system through its development process. The three components have evidenced, for each of these problem areas, the response provided by individual components through their respective programmes of activities.

This output, reproduced as annex 4 to this report, includes for each problem and needs area the relevant topic(s) for each component, the reference to the corresponding reports and activities, and a very brief summary of the contribution thus made to solve the concerned problem.

None of the identified 7 problems was left unattended by the project – and conversely no activity was conducted by individual components that were not relevant to help solving one or more of the identified *problems*.

ii. Cross-Cutting Issues

The Grant application form identified (page 9) four cross cutting issues that permeate the various aspects of social protection reform in China. Those are gender equality concerns; issues related to disability; good governance; and, human rights issues.

To evidence the importance attached in project works to each of these cross-cutting issues, the Task Force secretariat produced a draft synthetic document which was adopted after review and amendment by individual components.

This document highlights the fact that through its individual components the project duly addressed each of the identified cross-cutting issues. Further it shows that each of the components duly included, in their respective programmes of work, the issues considered as of major importance.

It is also worth noting that, through the identification by the project of the importance of listed cross-cutting issues, the attention of its Chinese counterparts was drawn to the interest of addressing them as part of their overall consideration of social protection reform – which might otherwise not have been the case.

iii. Technical Note on disability

Disability is currently not among the risks adequately covered under social insurance in China. Component 1, with support from the Task Force, therefore decided to add this item to that of the topics covered in its dedicated Technical Notes – see point *viii* below.

The drafting of the Note on Disability Insurance was conducted by C1 Component assistant and Task Force Secretary, Ms Shi Chuan. The Note was published together with the other such documents on the project website (English version). It is expected that the Chinese version of this specific Note will be produced by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

iv. Cross-fertilization

To be reassured that components do not work in isolation from each other, and that activities conducted under one component benefit to and from inputs by other interested components, the Task Force secretariat produced a template to fill in by individual components, evidencing whether representatives from other interested components actually took part in their activities.

The information produced by individual project components shows that, among 30 events likely to attract mutual participation organized by either C1, or C2, or C3 from the inception of the project until the time of writing, only 4 were not attended by component representatives beyond the organizing one, and 6 were attended by only 2 out of the 3 components.

This means that 87% of all considered events were attended by more than one component, and 80% by all three components.

v. Internal Coherence

Beyond specificities with preoccupations related to social protection reform for each of the three main project stakeholders – National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Civil Affairs – it became noticeable, as planning and implementation of activities started to develop, that some similar issues were dealt with, albeit from different angles, under more than one component of the project.

It was therefore considered as appropriate to monitor the recommendations emerging from those various approaches of similar topics, to ensure that they do not contradict each other, and indeed are compatible if not mutually supportive.

On the basis of inputs received from each of the three components, the Task Force endorsed a graph evidencing the interrelations among the topics studied by individual components.

Taking 2018 programme of activities into account, the three Components are implementing 38 topics, more specifically, C1: 17, C2: 10, C3: 11. Of these 38 topics, 28 have inter-component interactions, only 10 have no immediately visible interaction.

From the above, it clearly appears that the three components indeed act within one single superstructure, of which each of main three stakeholders is a pillar. Component recommendations to individual stakeholders therefore need to be reviewed jointly, in order to address, or at least evidence, possible discrepancies or even contradictions.

The Task Force secretariat prepared templates for the summary comparison of recommendations provided in respective component works dealing with connected issues. Comparison is being based on the contents of the Draft reform proposals published yearly by each component, as accessible from the project website.

Among the comparisons that could already be completed the analysis did not reveal any case of internal contradiction or discrepancies. It appears on the contrary that recommendations made by respective components supplement each other and could be combined into a project-wide output.

vi. Project Memorabilia

The Task Force would attend to group, under one easily accessible storage, the project most significant products and outputs. The experience of the 1st EU-China Social security reform project which did not practically transfer any deliverable to its successor should indeed be kept in mind.

The project was normally to come to an end in November 2018 – which justified the inclusion of this item under the Task Force work programme of action for 2018. Since however the project has been extended into the current year to come, the production of Memorabilia will obviously be delayed to that same year.

Templates were nonetheless drawn and adopted by TF members for the Memorabilia, and a sample is already available from the project website¹.

vii. Joint bibliography

Most of the project assessment and other research reports come with bibliographical lists and references that could prove to be quite useful for future works and researchers. At the suggestion of the team leader, the Task Force therefore decided to explore the possibility to compile those bibliographical references into one single electronic publication, to be made accessible to all interested parties.

The three components produced their respective lists of references covering the period 2015-2018 inclusive that could be aggregated into one single file providing 1801 unique references – 566 from C1, 489 from C2 and 746 from C3.

viii. Technical Notes

As initially requested by the EU Delegation in Beijing, the idea of producing technical notes is to provide a clear, simple message about the most topical issues under discussion (relevance for China and EU experience). They do not necessarily address primarily Chinese readership but people from other Asian countries or indeed other Regions where the social protection process is still lagging behind.

At the time of writing this report, 24 technical notes had been produced by Component 1 and 7 by Component 3.

1.1.6. Logical Framework

¹ <https://www.euchinasprp.eu/en/horizontal-en/project-memorabilia-en>

Table 2 - Logical Framework

	INTERVENTION LOGIC	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	SOURCES AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Overall Objective	Furthering social equity and inclusiveness of economic development throughout Chinese society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social protection coverage, income distribution, poverty levels, government budget and GDP shares allocated to social protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and provincial statistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines and priorities of the Chinese government regarding the reform do not change - The EU and Chinese institutions remain interested in the project activities
Specific Objectives	C1. Greater effectiveness and inclusiveness of China's social security system through strengthening the institutional capacity for developing policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive reforms proposals are developed and subject of public discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See C1 six-months reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDRC, MoF, MoCA and other Stakeholders remain fully committed to share the experience, the Best Practices and the proposals suggested by the Consortium; - NDRC, MoF, MoCA, Chinese Expert, and other Stakeholders ensure their availability for operational meeting, interviews etc., according to the plan shared in order to contribute actively to the project; - The EU and Chinese institutions remain interests in long-term cooperation/partnership
	C2. Implementation of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks and for enhanced and sustainable financial management of the social security system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanisms for Social security financial management are clarified and subject of public discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAC meeting minutes - Evidence of public debate (e.g. media excerpts) - Statistical reports from MoCA 	
	C3. Improvement of the policy and legal framework and policy enforcement of social assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports concerning access to social assistance show improvements in benefits targeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAC meeting minutes - Evidence of public debate (e.g. media excerpts) - Statistical reports from MoCA 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memoranda of Understanding / cooperation agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 month Project report 	

Results	<p>R1. Mechanisms for EU-China high level policy dialogue on social protection reform is established and partnerships between Specialized Public Bodies of EU Member States and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) on social protection are developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level conferences attract attention of the technical specialists and of the media - Mechanisms for further high level dialogue on social protection policy development, financial management and social assistance after the end of the project agreed; - Dedicated Project Website updated every month; - 2 Electronic Newsletters a year; - List of users registered to the Electronic Directory of Contacts is widespread among the participants each quarter; - Cooperative work between EU and national stakeholders in social protection is documented - A Task Force to ensure coherence and synergies in project intervention is established, which contributes to enhancing the level of policy dialogue on social protection reform between the EU and China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External project evaluation reports; - NDRC, MoF, MoCA and local government publications, documents and reports; - National and ministerial statistics; - National audit reports; - Media & news report; - Project Website; - Electronic Newsletters; - Directory of Contacts; - Constitutional PAC meeting, Press Conference, High Level International Conferences and Closing Conference minutes - Task Force reports and documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDRC, MoF, MoCA and other Stakeholders remain fully committed to share the experience, the Best Practices and the proposals suggested by the Consortium; - NDRC, MoF, MoCA, Chinese Expert, and other Stakeholders ensure their availability for operational meeting, interviews etc., according to the plan shared in order to contribute actively to the project; - The EU and Chinese institutions remain interests in long-term cooperation/partnership; - The main Chinese stakeholders promptly satisfy operational requests of the Consortium.
Result	<p>R2. Under the leadership of NDRC, coordination of policy making among government agencies in areas related to social protection reform is strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDRC proposals on social protection reform for inclusion in the XIIIth Five-years Plan are shared with other stakeholders and taken as a basis for discussion in preparatory works; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See NDRC website and reports on activities - See project website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDRC and other Component 1 Stakeholders remain fully committed to share the experience, the Best Practices and the proposals suggested by the Consortium;

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDRC, Component 1 Chinese Expert, and other Component 1 Stakeholder ensure their availability for operational meeting, interviews etc., according to the plan shared in order to contribute actively to the project; - The EU and Chinese institutions remain interests in long-term cooperation/ partnership.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDRC preliminary evaluation of implementation of the XIII Five-years Plan in the realm of social protection, as well as its tentative proposals for inclusion in the XIV Five-years Plan are shared and discussed with other stakeholders 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive proposal for social administration systems reform is elaborated and disseminated to interested stakeholders under project auspices. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis and proposals developed under project auspices are made known to a broad audience, nationally and internationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in national and international events organized outside the scope of the project 	
Result	R3. Capacity of NDRC in policy development and implementation, notably establishing and enforcing a national policy evaluation technique in the area of social protection, is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national policy evaluation technique in the area of social protection is developed and tested under the auspices of the project; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See project website 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two-thirds of local officers involved in the training in China and in Europe demonstrate a high 		

		level of approval of the training activities;		
		- Clear goals are assigned to the pension system in terms of replacement of past income and minimum living standards		
		- A methodology to assess gender implications of proposed social protection reforms is developed		
		- Interrelation between social protection and employment policies is documented and used for evaluation purposes		
		- Memoranda of understanding or equivalent instruments are discussed and concluded between NDRC and European partners, to use as a basis for continued cooperation in social protection		
Result	R4. National policy framework for a full coverage of old-age insurance system throughout China is consolidated by strengthening the interface of various schemes, permission funding pooling, old-age insurance scheme for civil servants/the employee of public	- A comprehensive model for multitier design of the pension system is developed under project auspices;	- Project reports - MoUs drafted and signed	
		- A comprehensive policy for developing a universal social pension model is developed and disseminated under project auspices;		

	agencies and the existing multi-lawyer pension system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An analysis of the consequences of demographic ageing on the pension system is conducted and discussed under project auspices. 		
Result	R5. Reform efforts in response to urbanization trends, in particular the harmonization/integration of the various basic social protection systems for different groups of beneficiary, the portability of social insurances and better suited assistance schemes are supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Model provisions for totalization and vesting of pension rights across regions are developed and piloted in selected places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See project website 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An analysis of the interrelation between social and economic development and the suitability and sustainability of pension schemes is developed, and used for macro projections to support systemic reform proposals. 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposals for bilateral Europe-China cooperation at the decentralized level are developed and start being implemented in response to the growing urbanization trend and labor mobility across the country 		

Results	<p>R6. The capacity of MoF financial management and supervision of central and local model of social security system and the extension of social security system coverage are enhanced, in particular in the fields of division of expenditure responsibilities, mid - terms budgeting of fund, and performance assessment model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive policy proposal on division of decision power and expenditure responsibilities between central and local government is developed under project auspices - Methodologies and tools for managing social protection expenditure, financial resources, and strategies to extend the social insurance coverage are elaborated under the project auspices - A comprehensive policy proposal for the promotion of a coordinated management of the social assistance system is developed under project auspices. - An effective strategy for the efficient collection of social insurance contribution is elaborated and discussed with stakeholders under project auspices. - An analysis on the development of old age services and the suitability and sustainability of a Long Term Care Insurance scheme is developed, and used to support reform proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAC meeting minutes; - Approval surveys at the end of the Training / Study Visit in China and in Europe; - Minutes and reports of the Workshops /Panel Discussion/ in China; - Project Website Documentation on C2 - Project contributed by submitting policy proposals report to MoF - Project scientific reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoF and other Component 2 stakeholders remain fully committed to share the experience, the Best Practices and the proposals suggested by the Consortium; - MoF, Component 2 Chinese Expert, and other Component 2 stakeholder ensure their availability for operational meeting, interviews etc., according to the plan shared in order to contribute actively to the project; - The EU and Chinese institutions remain interested in long-term cooperation/partnership.
	<p>R7. Enhance the top level design ability in the basic pension insurance; establish actuarial analysis models for basic pension insurance reform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comprehensive reform proposal for the establishment of a multi-pillar pension system is proposed under project auspices and debated with interested stakeholders for future implementation; - A set of methodologies to assess the economic sustainability and adequacy 		

		<p>of the Chinese pension system are proposed to MoF under the project auspices and debated for future policy development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actuarial models are analysed and disseminated under project auspices. 		
	<p>R8. The capacity of the MoF in the management of social insurance funds, focusing on fiscal support budgeting, account system, investment techniques and adjustment mechanisms for pension benefits is strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A set of strategies for the investments of pension funds and techniques to strengthen risk control management are introduced and discussed under project auspices. - A comprehensive policy to promote the management of pension funds is developed and discussed. 		
Results	<p>R9. Capacity of MoCA for promulgating and enforcing the Social Assistance Law and the regulations on rural and urban minimum standards of living are strengthened; the skills of local officials in policy transmissions and implementation are upgraded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legal framework for social assistance is reviewed and widely discussed, reform proposals are developed and tested under project auspices; - At least two-thirds of local officers involved in the training in China and in Europe demonstrate a high level of approval of the training activities; - Better access of clients to social assistance mechanisms (at urban and rural levels) is documented through project activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAC meeting minutes; - Approval surveys at the end of the Training / Study Visit in China and in Europe; - Minutes and reports of the High Level Event on Social Assistance/Panel Discussion/ Workshops in China; - Approval surveys at the end of the Workshops in China. - Project contributed by submitting preliminary policy proposals report to MoCA (2016). Final policy proposals to be drafted after the C3 pilots completing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoCA and other Component 3 stakeholders remain fully committed to share the experience, the Best Practices and the proposals suggested by the Consortium; - MoCA, Component 3 Chinese Experts, and other Component 3 stakeholder ensure their availability for operational meeting (panel discussion), interviews etc., according to the plan shared in order to

	<p>R10. The legal frameworks on a) formulation of unified standards for the estimation and calculation of social assistance benefits, b) recognition of social assistance target groups and c) identification of low-income families are consolidated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A set of proposals for unification of benefits standards in social assistance is developed, discussed and tested under project auspices; - A methodology for functional identification of social assistance beneficiaries (target groups) is developed, discussed and tested under project; - A definition and quantification of goals to be assigned to social assistance benefits are developed and discussed under project auspices. - A methodology for and requirement for social assistance services is developed; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the government documents have been included in the 2015 and 2016 Volume on research topics of 2015&2016&2017 and deeply discussed with MoCA during several events organised with active participation of the EU experts. - Several research outputs within the Volume 2015 /2016 and 2017 - Local visits to several provinces across China performed 	<p>contribute actively to the project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EU and Chinese institutions remain interests in long-term cooperation/partnership.
	<p>R11. Efforts of MoCA in improved care for poor rural people and disabled people are strengthened, and public information and transparency of social assistance policies are raised at provincial level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeting of social assistance towards the specific groups (children, elderly, people with disabilities, poor rural people); service delivery for them is documented and discussed under project auspices, mechanisms for improving the situation are developed and tested. - Tools for public information and its transparency i.e. via campaigns and awareness on social assistance, are developed and tested under project auspices. 		

1.2. Component 1

1.2.1. Results pursued

Component 1 of the project has specifically to pursue 4 of its altogether 11 identified results. Those are results R2 to R5 inclusive, namely:

- Improved interagency cooperation in social protection reform (R2);
- Enhanced capacity in policy development, implementation and evaluation (R3);
- Strengthening the interface of the various pension schemes towards full coverage in old-age (R4); and,
- Reform efforts in response to urbanization trends, concerning notably basic protection and portability of rights (R5).

The National Development and Reform Commission NDRC is the main stakeholder and beneficiary for Component 1 activities.

1.2.2. Topics considered

Table 3 below presents the consolidated list of topics selected for implementation under C1 since 2015 activity plan. It includes all modifications previously endorsed by PAC meetings, as well as the proposed revised wording of topic 1.1.1, devoted to Planning in the realm of Social protection.

Table 3 – Consolidated list of topics, component 1

	Topic		Observations
R2	1.1.1	Contribution to five-year socio and economic development plans	Reformulated 2015, 2019
	1.1.2	Coordination of policy making among government agencies in areas related to social protection reform	On-going
	1.1.3	Monitoring interaction between employment promotion and social protection policies	Introduced 2016 – 2018: Quality development.
R3	1.2.1	Relationship of pension benefit with minimum social wage	Merged with 1.3.6
	1.2.2	National policy evaluation technique in the area of social protection (indicators, methods and programs)	2017
	1.2.3	Affordability of Pension schemes (contributions and Government subsidies	Introduced 2016
	1.2.4	Gender considerations in pension schemes	Introduced 2017. 2019: European experience
R4	1.3.1	Pension reform for public sectors	2015
	1.3.2	Social pooling of the basic pension component – Evaluation of the combination between basic pension and individual accounts	Reformulated 2015
	1.3.3	Universal social pension models	2018 – National feasibility study
	1.3.4	Multi-tiered design of pension systems (public pension, enterprise annuity and individual pension)	2015 – 2018: Pension reform proposal
	1.3.5	Occupational pension plans for public sectors and private pension plans	2018 – Angle Income redistribution tools
	1.3.6	Parametric reforms of pension system (Vesting, indexation, adjustment mechanisms of pension benefit, benefit formula etc.)	Reformulated 2017 – Merged with 1.2.1, 1.3.9, 1.4.1)

	1.3.7	Ageing population and possible strategy of dealing with this situation	2016. 2018: AAI
	1.3.8	Issue related to the informal sector integration in social security schemes	2018 – Angle Population mobility
	1.3.9	NDC (notional defined contribution) pension reform	Merged with 1.3.6
R5	1.4.1	Improvement of the individual account component in public pension system for urban workers	Merged with 1.3.6
	1.4.2	Relationship between social-economic development and the redistribution function of social security	2016 – Ctd 2017
	1.4.3	Strategy of integrating social security system in urban and rural context also through the portability of social insurances	2015

	<i>Topic considered in 2018</i>
	<i>Topic to be considered during project extension</i>
	<i>Topic considered both in 2018 and 2019</i>

1.2.3. Best Practices

The project Component 1 benefits from exposure to European best practices through two main channels, one being direct exposure to outside realities through overseas capacity building, dialogue and study visits, and the other exchanges with European experts on topics of interest for the Chinese social protection, income distribution and employment reform process.

Table 4 below provides a summary of overseas activities conducted under C1 programmes to date.

Table 4 – Venues for overseas activities, C1

	2015	2016	2017	2018
International workshops	Belgium ¹	(China) ⁴	France ⁸	Belgium ¹⁴
Dialogue & Study visits	Spain, Poland, Czech republic ²	France Belgium ⁵ France, Czech Republic ⁶	Sweden, Finland ⁹ ¹⁰	Denmark, Poland, Belgium ¹⁵
High level training	France ³	Spain ⁷	Germany ¹¹	Italy ¹⁶
Other			Italy, Spain, Belgium – EC ¹² Italy ¹³	Two countries TBD, provincial visit ¹⁷ Spain ¹⁸

Topics for overseas activities (name of non-consortium countries is highlighted)

¹ Reform of public pension schemes ² Social protection and employment of migrant workers ³ Multi-tier pension systems ⁴ Relations between employment promotion and social security reform ⁵ Influence of Employment and Social Security Policies on Income Distribution in Post-Crisis Era ⁶ Provincial study visit on general administration and sustainability of social security and migrant workers vesting rights ⁷ Challenges posed to social security, notably pensions protection, by demographic ageing ⁸ Income redistribution and parametric reform – Pension schemes ⁹ Income redistribution through social security ¹⁰ A study visit to Romania on Gender issues in Social protection initially foreseen for 2017 had to be postponed because of conflicting commitments ¹¹ Evaluation of employment and social security policies, including relevance for social needs ¹² Official visit to review employment and social security reforms, discuss prospects for future cooperation ¹³ Coordination meeting & RT discussion, ALMP ¹⁴ High-quality development and capacity building for labour market in Europe and in China ¹⁵ High-quality development and workforce quality improvement ¹⁶ The influence on income redistribution of changes in economic and industrial structure ¹⁷ Demographic ageing, Shanghai DRC, postponed to 2019 ¹⁸ Signing Memorandum of Understanding

During activities conducted since the beginning of the project, including the period covered by the present report, Chinese beneficiaries could interact with some 140 experts and officials coming from twenty European countries, including representatives from ten international organizations or projects.

1.2.4. Situational analysis

The general framework for Component 1 activities in 2015 was the fundamentals of the pension system reform in China; 2016 addressed more the issue of sustainability of the reform, while 2017 focused on the relevance and social efficiency of a reformed system.

The golden thread for 2018 activities has been the role of social protection reform in upholding societal changes, which included such issues as coordination between social security and employment mechanisms, monitoring population mobility, adapting to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, developing entrepreneurial spirit and potential including for senior citizens, promoting lifelong training and education as part of social protection, developing optimal combination of policies and tools for income redistribution, ensuring genuine gender equality in all relevant respects, ensuring sensitization of the widest segments of the population to social protection goals and mechanisms.

Activities conducted in 2018 covered all four of the project expected results assigned to this Component.

Assessment reports

Topics introduced for project activities in 2018 were:

- a research on Methods and Experiences of Strengthening Vocational training (topic 1.1.3). Mr. Yang Weiguo – School of Labour and Human resources, Renmin University - was selected as short-term expert to conduct this research entitled “High-quality Development and Workforce Quality Improvement”.
- reports on Policies and Tools for redistribution of primary income (topic 1.3.5). European research was assigned to Mr Jean-Yves Hocquet on behalf of the French National School for Higher Social Security Studies EN3S. The assessment report on the Chinese situation was undertaken by Prof. Li Shi (Beijing Normal University, Institute for Income Distribution and Poverty Studies) and Ms Zhu Mengbing
- a study on Employment and social security issues under the background of population movement (topic 1.3.8). Mr Jin Weigang, Chairperson of the Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security, seconded by Ms Zhang Libin, was selected as Chinese expert for this research.
- a research on Considering universal pensions in China (topic 1.3.3). Mr Qi Chuanjun, from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences CASS was selected as Chinese expert for this topic, which is conducted in cooperation with CASS.
- a publication on Active ageing index (topic 1.3.7) was produced by Prof. Asghar Zaidi, professor at Seoul National University and visiting professor at London School of Economics and Political Science
- a Proposal for a reformed structure of the Chinese pension scheme for Urban employees (topics 1.3.2 & 1.3.4) was put forward by the Component One Resident Expert of the EU-China Social protection reform project.

Further consideration of Gender issues in employment and social protection (topic 1.2.4) had to be postponed to early 2019.

Assessment and other research reports were posted on the project website as soon as available in English and Chinese versions.

1.2.5. Cross-topic activities

Panel discussion

Component One Panel discussion meeting on 2018 Research topics of the EU-China Social protection reform project SPRP was held on 13 September 2018 in Beijing, Tangla Yaxiu Hotel. Some 30 participants took part in the event that was chaired by Mr. Michele Bruni, SPRP European Team leader and Mr. Zhang Guoqing, Main Expert, SPRP Component One. Chinese and European experts first discussed the topic of income distribution, based on a European comparative study prepared by Mr. Jean-Yves Hocquet and a Chinese Assessment report prepared by Mr. Li Shi. The meeting then discussed the topics of Population mobility based on an Assessment report prepared by Mr. Jin Weigang, and of High-Quality Development and Workforce Quality improvement on the basis of an Assessment report prepared by Mr. Yang Weiguo. European experts from Belgium (Ms. Ann Coenen), France (Ms. Veronique Dunaud) and Poland (Ms. Agnieszka Majcher-Teleon) contributed their comments to the discussion.

1.2.6. Overseas activities

Under Component 1 auspices, 2018 overseas activities were conducted in Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Poland and Italy. Table 4 above provides a summary of overseas activities conducted under Component 1 programme to date.

Training activity in Italy

The high-level training on the Influence of the adjustment of economic and industrial restructuring on income distribution took place in Rome and Milan from 14 to 28 October 2018 for 24 participants led by Mr Ha Zhengyou, Director General, Department of Employment and Income distribution, NDRC. 18 participants came from NDRC Provincial delegations.

The Programme notably addressed the major European experiences in promoting social integration through expanding the middle-income group by the combined use of employment and social security policies; the main measures to prevent polarization and spreading social risks by the governments; the main measures to regulate and control the high-income group, and to provide subsistence allowances to the low-income group.

The course was organized by the Italian National Institute of Social Protection (INPS), Project Leader of SPRP, and the Italian National School of Public Administration (SNA), with the support of Expertise France and SISPI-Italia Previdenza (respectively the C1 and C2 Secretariats).

The training was structured in 22 sessions, aimed to improve the participants' knowledge and understanding of the EU experiences and best practices in the field of the income redistribution in an evolving social and economic scenario, with a focus on the impact of the new technologies on the labour market.

The 22 lecturers and experts who gave their presentations came from Academia (University of Rome, Milan, Modena) and European and Italian Institutions, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the EU Commission, the Finnish Social Insurance Institution (KELA), the Italian Social Insurance Institution (INPS), the Italian National School of Administration, the Italian Agency for Active Labour Policies, the Italian National Institute for public policy analysis, etc.

The Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Bank of Italy and the City of Milan hosted three sessions of the training and presented detailed analysis and data on poverty in Italy, highlighting the effects of current policies for poverty reduction.

Lectures were supplemented by field visits to relevant Italian agencies.

Pre-training briefing for participants took place in Beijing on 13 October 2018. Technically, it was imparted by the Chinese experts dealing with researches on respectively vocational training (Prof. Yang Weiguo topic 1.1.3) and Redistribution regulations and policy tools (Prof. Li Shi, topic 1.3.5)

International workshop

The International Workshop on High quality development and Capacity building for labour market in Europe and in China was held in Brussels on 20 September 2018 for some 25 participants. Chinese participants included high level NDRC officials and experts. European side included representation from OECD and the European Commission – Employment Committee – as well as experts and Government representatives from Belgium, France, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom.

The meeting first discussed Employment and social security issues under the background of population movement with keynote addresses on the situation in China, and on Active labour market policies (Obstacles to mobility) in OECD countries. It then turned to reviewing income distribution in its relations with and influence on the functioning of the labour market on the basis of key note addresses on the situation in Europe and in China respectively.

Finally, the meeting discussed Methods and experiences for achieving quality development on the labour market for which the situation in China and in selected European countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom) was introduced through national monographs presented by their authors. Closing statements were made by Mr. Li Kang, Director General, Department of Employment and Income Distribution, NDRC and Mr. Koen Vleminckx, Director of Research & Publications and Advisor General at the Federal Public Service for Social Security (Belgium).

Policy Dialogue and Study visit

From 19 to 28 September 2018, a delegation of high level NDRC officials led by Mr Li Kang, Director General, department of Employment and Income distribution, has visited Belgium, Denmark and Poland to get better acquainted with the relations between economic development and active labour market policies supported by social protection reform.

In Belgium, the delegation took part in the International Workshop on High-Quality Development and Workforce Quality Improvement (see above). It also had a working session with the European Commission Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

In Denmark, the Delegation had bilateral discussions with the Ministry of Employment on Danish Active Labour Market Policies. It also had a working session with the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions L.O.

In Poland, the delegation met in Warsaw with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs to discuss relevant policy issues. It also visited a number of ground institutions active in the implementation of Polish labour market policies in Krakow and in Warsaw.

In general, the countries of the European Union are facing the challenges of increasing non-standard employment and mismatch of skills, however, the competences of labours are improved and the employment is increased by implementing the “flexi cure” labour market policies, strengthening the public employment services in a comprehensive way, and enhancing trainings. Some of these experiences were worthy to learn and take as references by the NDRC delegation, as follows:

- to strengthen top-level design and improve the policies and institutions of labour market;

- to increase investment and constantly strengthen the capacity of providing vocational training;
- to put emphasis on demand-driven and improve the quality of public employment service;
- to focus on the targeted groups and let the policy to fully play its effects.

Memorandum of Understanding

NDRC and the Spanish Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social security have agreed in November 2018 on the text of a Memorandum of Understanding to “establish a framework of cooperation between the Signatories, to tackle issues of common interest and concern in a context of demographic ageing, in the fields of employment and social security”. The signature of the Memorandum by the Chairman of NDRC and the Minister of Labour, Migration and Social Security intervened in Madrid on 29 November 2018 in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Spanish Chief of Government Pedro Sanchez. The project Component One has been instrumental in reaching that agreement, notably through contributing to the financing and organisation of preparatory visits of NDRC delegations to Spain.

1.2.7. Pilot sites

Guangdong

Activities developed with Guangdong Provincial Development and Reform Commission and Huizhou Municipality² correspond to the Enhancement of Statistics Management, as a tool for decision-making in the field of Social Security, and to Awareness raising on the importance of Social protection.

The mission was conducted by experts from Expertise France for statistics and management – Andrei Tretyak, Head of Social protection Unit, Expertise France; Michel Villac, Vice – President, French National High Council for Family, Childhood and Age HCFEA - and the MGEN - VYV Group for Awareness raising - Thierry Weishaupt, China Operation General Manager, Groupe VYV and Romain Chave, Project manager, International Department, National Teachers' Health Fund MGEN France. The mission took place between 17 and 21 December 2018 with participation by NDRC, its ICC and the Component project team from Beijing.

Mission members first met with Guangdong province authorities, introduction on Guangdong social security administration, and further delineating the topic on awareness raising. Proceeding to Huizhou city, the mission held a meeting with municipal institutions and HR departments from local enterprises to discuss related issues on statistics, social security management and social protection awareness raising. On-site visit to local enterprises followed. The mission then conducted a training program on social security awareness raising for local companies, small business and migrant workers plus social protection agencies. Returning to Guangdong, the mission met with GD province authorities to discuss EU experience in social protection administration and data management followed by field visiting to one of Guangzhou city social security administration agency. A Training program on technology support, EU experience and discussion on Guangdong province related issues concluding the mission which should have follow up activities during the course of the year.

Shanghai

It was anticipated that Shanghai Academy for Reform and Development would update their 2016 study on Confronting demographic ageing through social protection mechanisms³ following which a Provincial study

² Due to restructuring in Qingyuan municipal Government proposed local activities are to be moved to Huizhou municipality, which already had developed relations with the project Component one (see C1 second six-month Component report)

³ See <https://www.euchinasprp.eu/images/documents/ReportHLE/HLEENV1.pdf> page 246 sqq.

visit to two EU countries faced with similar ageing preoccupations would be organised in early November 2018 (Spain and France had agreed to host the delegation). However, due to the heavy workload incumbent upon Shanghai authorities towards the end of the calendar year, it was agreed to postpone the activity until early 2019, project extension permitting.

1.2.8. Human resources

The contract of the EU Resident expert for Component 1, Mr Jean-Victor Gruat (Expertise France) took effect on 20 December 2014 and expired on 16 November 2018. Within the project Beijing office, Ms Wang Qingqing acted as assistant for Component 1 from August to December 2015. Ms. Xu Chenjia has been working as C1 Component assistant from February to September 2016, Ms Li Lingxi from 1 October 2016 to 31 January 2018 and Ms Shi Chuan since 1 February 2018. Mr Zhang Guoqing and Mr Fang Lianquan act as Main Chinese experts for the project Component 1 since April 2015 – respectively Main expert Operations and Main expert Research. Contracts have been renewed according to project extension.

The project methodology relies on Chinese experts to provide assessment of topics under consideration and submit related draft reform proposals for further discussion among Chinese stakeholders with involvement of European experts. Since the beginning of the project, 15 technical topics were explored under project auspices, mobilizing 33 high-level Chinese experts.

Table 5 below provides the breakdown of use in human resources during the year 2018.

Table 5 - Human resources used in 2018 – C1

PROJECT*	Y 1 TO 3*		Total Y 4****
1193		Main C1 Chinese expert staff**	
		Main Chinese expert 1 Zhang Guoqing	Monthly
		Main Chinese expert 2 Fang Lianquan	Monthly
		CN EXPERT VOCATIONAL TRAINING	35
		CN EXPERT UNIVERSAL PENSION	20
		CN EXPERT REDISTRIBUTION	35
		CN EXPERT POPULATION MOBILITY	35
	442	TOTAL OTHER CN EXPERTS (C1)	125
		Component assistant	Monthly
	599	Resident expert C1 JV Gruat	135
646	357	C1 EU PUBLIC SECTOR STAFF+SUBCONTRACTING***	110
		EU Experts Training Germany	40
		EU Experts Training Italy	40
		EU EXPERTS VOC. TRAINING+POPULATION MOBILITY	30
		EU EXPERT REDISTRIBUTION	Na.
		EU RESEARCH ACTIVE AGEING	Na.

* Nb. Of days is notional since daily rates changed after first year

** Main Chinese experts enjoy monthly fees since year 2, which does not match actually worked nb. of days x standard daily fee

*** Redistribution and Active ageing activities to be covered under dedicated Research budget lines

**** 10.5 months only (until 16 November 2018)

Na. European research on Income distribution and on Active Ageing were financed out of lump sum budgetary provisions for research

1.3. Component 2

1.3.1. Results pursued

Among the eleven results the Project is expected to achieve, three are explicitly assigned to this component, namely:

- **Result 6:** The capacity of MoF financial management and supervision of central and local model of social security system and the extension of social security system coverage are enhanced, in particular in the fields of division of expenditure responsibilities, mid -terms budgeting of fund, and performance assessment model.
- **Result 7:** Enhance the top-level design ability in the basic pension insurance; establish actuarial analysis models for basic pension insurance reform.
- **Result 8:** The capacity of the MoF in the management of social insurance funds, focusing on fiscal support budgeting, account system, investment techniques and adjustment mechanisms for pension benefits is strengthened.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) is the main stakeholder and beneficiary for Component 2 activities.

1.3.2. Topics considered

Table 6 below presents the consolidated list of topics selected for implementation under C2 since 2015 activity plan. It includes all modifications previously endorsed by PAC meetings, some topics have been added, some combined while others have lost their relevance.

Table 6 – Consolidated list of topics, Component 2

R6 The capacity of MoF financial management and supervision of central and local model of social security system and the extension of social security system coverage are enhanced, in particular in the fields of division of expenditure responsibilities, mid -terms budgeting of fund, and performance assessment model.		
2.1.1	Division of decision power and expenditure responsibilities on social security between central and local government	2015
2.1.2	Social security coverage on atypical employment: methodologies and tools of analysis and management	2015-2016
2.1.3	Alternative policy measures to cope with the impact of ageing on the financial sustainability of the social security system	Introduced 2018
2.1.4	An integrated system for the coordinated management of the social assistance system	2017
2.1.5	Social contribution collections: toward a unified system	Introduced 2018
2.1.6	Development of Old-age Services and Long Term Care System	2017
R7 Enhance the top-level design ability in the basic pension insurance; establish actuarial analysis models for basic pension insurance reform.		

2.2.1	Nominal personal account reform in the basic pension insurance system	2015
2.2.2	Models and Methodologies for the Social and Economic sustainability analysis in social protection system	2015-2016
R8 The capacity of the MoF in the management of social insurance funds, focusing on fiscal support budgeting, account system, investment techniques and adjustment mechanisms for pension benefits is strengthened.		
2.3.1	Investment strategies of social funds and risk control methodologies	2017
2.3.2	The role of public finance and enterprise annuities funds in the Chinese social security system	Introduced 2018

Legend:

Topics implemented in 2015-2016	White colour
Topics implemented in 2017	Green colour
Topics foreseen in 2018	Orange colour

1.3.3. Best practices

The project Component 2 benefits from exposure to European best practices through two main channels, one being direct exposure to outside realities through overseas capacity building, and the other exchanges with European experts in China on the topics of interest to the Chinese social protection, public finance and governance.

Table 7 below provides a summary of overseas training activities conducted under C2 programmes to date.

Table 7 – C2; countries where training activities were conducted in 2016, 2017, 2018

	2016	2017	2018
Countries	Italy	France	Italy
<u>Topics of overseas training activities</u> 2016-European Practices for a Fair and Sustainable Social Security System. Governance, Long term Strategies and Financial Management 2017- Social Security in an Ageing Society: EU Practices Responding to the Demographic Challenge 2018- Financing the social security system in an ageing society: the role of public finance and private supplementary funds			

During the activities conducted since the beginning of the project, including the period covered by the present report, the Chinese beneficiaries interacted with some 105 experts and officials coming from eight European countries.

1.3.4. Situational analysis

In 2018, C2 tackled three topics, namely: 2.1.3) Alternative policy measures to cope with the impact of ageing on the financial sustainability of the social security system; 2.1.5) Social contribution collections: toward a unified system; 2.3.2) The role of public finance and enterprise annuities funds in the Chinese social security system.

Assessment Reports

In 2018, Chinese short-term experts were selected to provide assessment reports on the above- mentioned topic.

- On topic 2.1.3 Prof. Dong Keyong, Renmin University, drafted a report titled “Population Aging and Fiscal Sustainability of Social Security in China”;
- On topic 2.1.5 Prof. Wang Dehua, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, drafted a report titled “Social contribution collections: toward a unified system in China”;
- On topic 2.3.2 Prof. Zheng Bingwen, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, drafted a report titled “ The Role of Enterprise Annuity Funds in Chinese Social Security”.
- A research titled “The sustainability of the welfare system: the methodological approach of the EU aging commission and other international organization” was drafted by Prof. Wang Xiaojun, Renmin University.
- A research titled “China’s fiscal, economic and demographic imbalances at the provincial level” was drafted by Prof. Hu Jiye, China University of Political Science and Law.

Best Practice Reports

- On topic 2.1.3 Ms. Jana Malacova, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic was selected as short-term expert to conduct the EU best practice research titled “Ageing of the society as challenge – policy measures in the EU and in the Czech Republic”.
- On topics 2.1.5 and 2.3.2 Mr. Mel Cousins, International social security expert, was selected as short-term expert to draft two EU best practice research papers, titled respectively “Social contribution collections: toward a unified system, experiences from the EU”; “The role of public finance in the Chinese social security system: EU Experiences”.
- Furthermore, C2 assigned a research titled “Long-term care (LTC): Occupational profiles, gender segmentation and training programs” to Prof. Mario Catani, University of Bologna.

Assessment, best practice and other research reports were posted on the project website as soon as available both in the English and Chinese versions.

1.3.5. Cross-topic activities

Panel Discussion

On 14-15th June 2018, Component 2 held a Panel Discussion in cooperation with the Social Security Department of MoF on the three topics that were object of the 2018 activity plan.

During the Panel discussion, organized in three half-day sessions, Chinese and European experts presented the assessment of the Chinese situation and EU practices on the respective fields. The discussion sessions involved MoF officials, external EU and Chinese experts and scholars, allowing broad and lively exchanges among all the participants. In the next phase, the in depth analyses was expected to lead to the elaboration of policy proposals by EU and Chinese experts, to be then delivered to the MoF.

Overall, the Panel was attended by around 25 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance, from the academia (Renmin University, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Capital Normal University, China University of Political Science and Law), from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, Italian Embassy to China, Generali Group, and the project team.

Workshops

- To conclude the 2017 activities, on 26-27th February 2018, Component 2 held a Workshop in cooperation with the Social Security Department of MoF on the three topics tackled by the C2 project during the 2017 work plan, namely: “Investment strategies of social funds and risk control methodologies”; “An integrated system for the coordinated management of the social assistance system”; “The Development of Old Age Services and Long-Term Care System”. During the Workshop, organized in three half-day sessions, Chinese and European experts presented the policy suggestions elaborated after the discussions held during the previous panel meetings. The proposals were discussed by EU and Chinese guests, who contributed with additional insights and personal experiences.

Overall, the Workshop was attended by around 40 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance (Actuarial Division, Dibao Division, General Office, Medical Insurance Division, Veteran Benefit Division), from the academia (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Renmin University, China University of Political Science and Law, University of International Business and Economics, Chinese Academy of Governance, Beijing Normal University, China Center for Scientific Research on Aging), from the European Delegation to China, the Italian Embassy, Generali Group, and the project team. The policy proposals presented and discussed at the Workshop were formalized in a document submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

- On 12th October 2018, Component 2 held a final Workshop in cooperation with the Social Security Department of MoF on the three topics tackled by the C2 project during the 2018 work plan. During the Workshop, organized in three sessions, Chinese and European experts presented the policy suggestions elaborated after the panel discussions held in June 2018. The proposals were discussed by EU and Chinese guests, who contributed with additional insights and personal experiences.

Overall, the Workshop was attended by around 20 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance, from the academia, from the European Delegation to China, EU Embassies representatives, and the project team. The policy proposals presented and discussed at the Workshop were formalized in a document submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

Reform Proposals

In order to complete the activities of the 2017 work plan the Component 2 did:

- Supervise the production of the policy suggestions papers;
- Organize a 2-day workshop in the last week of February 2018;
- Publish the research papers and the policy suggestions papers related to the three topics covered in the 2017 activity plan.

Following the October workshop on 2018 research topics, C2 compiled all the research paper and policy suggestions covered in 2018.

2018 EU-China Conference on Population Ageing: Impact and Policy Scenarios

On September 19, the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project (SPRP) Conference- Population Ageing in China: Impact and Policy Scenarios- was held at the Kuntai Royal Hotel, in Beijing. The conference was organized by the Component 2 on the occasion of the 2018 International Day of Older Persons, which is commemorated annually on 1st October, to highlight the important role that older persons play in society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing, which are common both to China and Europe.

Mr. Chris Wood, Minister and Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to China, Mr. Dang Junwu, Deputy Director of the China Center for Scientific Research on Ageing, and Prof. Michele Bruni, Team Leader of the EU-China SPRP opened the conference. Over 60 participants attended the event, representing Chinese government agencies - National Development Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Civil affairs, China Social Insurance Association, China Population and Development Research Center -, as well a civil society, international organizations, EU member state embassies and academia. Among the speakers, renowned experts such as Prof. Zheng Bingwen (CASS), Mr. Wang Dewen (World Bank), Prof. Asghar Zaidi (Seoul National University, London School of Economics) and many others discussed a series of topics and research results obtained by the EU-China SPRP, including: evaluations of the ageing process and its economic impact; the sustainability of the Chinese pension system and the role of the enterprise annuity funds in creating a multi-pillar system; how to improve elderly care services and education and vocational training implications created by the fast expansion of the long-term care system.

The Conference also produced a set of policy suggestions that attracted the attention of institutions and media present at the event.

1.3.6. Overseas activities

Training Course in Italy

As part of the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project Component 2 work plan for the year 2018, a Delegation of 18 MoF national and provincial officials, led by Mr. Wang Xiong, Division Director of the Urban and Rural Minimum Income Benefit Division, Department of Social Security, undertook a two weeks training in Italy (Rome and Milan) from 1st to 15th July 2018.

The general aim of the course was to increase the participants' knowledge and understanding of the EU practices in the areas covered by the Social Protection Reform Project, as well as their skills in designing and implementing social protection policies.

The training programme, titled "Financing the social security system in an ageing society: the role of public finance and private supplementary funds", was organized by the Italian Institute of Social Protection (INPS) and the National School of Public Administration (SNA), with the logistic and administrative support of SISPI Italia Previdenza (C2 Secretariat).

The lectures were delivered by around 30 experts coming from Italy and other EU countries. The first group of lectures were devoted to the analysis of the social protection system in Italy and other EU countries, of their evolution in response to the ongoing ageing process, as well as of the various financing models and contribution collections methodologies. A full day was devoted to the theme of active labour market policies, welfare policies and the role of the third sector. The problem of sustainability called for the discussion of the second and third pillars, and of the issue of fund portfolio management.

The ageing process in China will progressively accelerate in the next years and the Long Term Care experiences of EU countries, more advanced along the path of the demographic transition, were presented in a series of lectures and institutional visits that addressed also the topics of technology, occupations and training.

Visits to institutions and local organizations played a very important role in the training, allowing the trainees to increase their specific skills by discussing with their colleagues of Italian institutions work procedures, tools and technology and compare the solutions adopted in the two countries. The trainees visited:

- The Ministry of Economy and Finance, where they received an overview of the role of the public finance in subsidizing the social security system in an ageing society;
- The Bank of Italy to analyze the financing mechanism of the pension system;
- The Caritas (NGO), where they learned about the role of the third sector in the provision of elderly care services;
- The Ministry of Health to learn about the Italian National Health Service and the role of the Ministry of Health, as well as the National Chronicity Plan;

- INPS territorial headquarter in Milan, where they had the possibility to explore the functioning and organization of a provincial office, as well as to witness the way the relationship with the central directorate and customer service are dealt with;
- The Municipality of Milan, where they received an overview of the role of public administrations in the management of the elderly care services;
- The Institute for the Elderly “Piero Redaelli” to analyze the practices of formal LTC.

1.3.7. Pilot Sites

According to the 2018 Activity Plan, “The C2 will carry out up to three pilots at the provincial level to improve the situational analysis related to topic 2.3.2 and research 1) by studying respectively the existing private funds experiments and the private management of long term care”.

During the situational analysis phase, C2 together with MoF better specified the topic of a provincial mission to be carried out in Chongqing in October 2018. Since at that date EU experts were not available, the activity was first re-scheduled in November and then, due to the timing of project extension, postponed to January 2019.

1.3.8. Human resources

The contract of the Component 2 Resident Expert Mr. Michele Bruni took effect on 16th May 2016. Within the project Beijing office, Ms. Valentina Pignotti acted as assistant for Component 2 from April to December 2015, and from 24th March 2016 until present. Ms. Li Zhen acted as Main Chinese expert since June 2016 until February 2017. For additional information on Component 2 HR management, see table below.

The project relies on Chinese experts to provide assessment of the topics under consideration, and submit related draft reform proposals for further discussion among Chinese stakeholders with involvement of European experts. Since the beginning of the project, 10 topics have been explored, and 11 high-level Chinese experts mobilized.

Table 8 provides the breakdown of the human resources involved in project activities during the year 2018.

Table 8 - Human resources used in 2018 – C2

Years 1 to 4		Used Year 4	Incumbent
585	Total C2 Chinese short term expert	160	
	CN EXPERTs REFORM PROPOSALS Integrated system for the management of SA	10	Jiang Zhen
	CN EXPERT REFORM PROPOSALS Old age services & Long-Term Care	10	Li Zhen
	CN EXPERT REFORM PROPOSALS Investment Strategies of social security funds	10	Hu Jiye

	CN Expert Situational Analysis 2.1.3	30	<i>Dong Keyong</i>
	CN Expert Situational Analysis 2.1.5	30	<i>Wang Dehua</i>
	CN Expert Situational Analysis 2.3.2	30	<i>Zheng Bingwen</i>
	CN EXPERTs REFORM PROPOSALS 2.1.3; 2.1.5; 2.3.2	10	<i>Dong Keyong</i>
	CN EXPERTs REFORM PROPOSALS 2.3.2	10	<i>Zheng Bingwen</i>
	CN Expert Provincial Assessment	20	<i>Guo Yu</i>
	Resident expert C2	<i>Full time</i>	Michele Bruni
	Component assistant	<i>Full time</i>	<i>Valentina Pignotti</i>
428	Total EU Short Term Experts ⁴	195	
	EU Experts Best Practice Investment Strategies of social security funds	20	Davide Cipparrone
	EU Expert reform proposals Integrated system for the management of SA	20	Mel Cousins
	EU Expert reform proposals Old age services & Long-Term Care	10	Marcello Morciano
	EU Expert reform proposals Investment Strategies of social security funds	10	Davide Cipparrone
	EU Expert Best Practice 2.1.3;	/	Jana Malacova
	EU Expert Best Practice 2.1.5; 2.3.2	60	Mel Cousins
	EU Expert reform proposals 2.1.3;	/	Linda Sokačová
	EU Expert reform proposals 2.1.5; 2.3.2 and Provincial Mission	40	Mel Cousins
	Workshop discussant- February 2018	/	Pavel Janecek
	Workshop discussant- February 2018	5	Andrea Canavesio
	Special Event on ageing and elderly care	2	Mario Catani
	Special Event on ageing and elderly care	/	Kohen Vleminckx
	Special Event on ageing and elderly care	/	Peter Samyn
	EU EXPERTS OVERSEAS TRAINING	28	Several
4	Study/Research	3	Mario Catani; Wang Xiaojun; Hu Jiye

⁴ Including both EU public sector staff and Subcontracting.

1.4. Component 3

1.4.1. Results pursued

Within Component 3 of the project there are 3 of 11 identified results - results R9 to R11 inclusive, namely:

- Promulgating and enforcing the Social Assistance Law and the regulations on rural and urban minimum standards of living;
- Developing of legal framework on unified standards for defining social assistance benefits, target groups, low income families; and,
- Improving care for poor rural people and disabled people as well public information and transparency on social assistance policy.

MoCA is the main stakeholder and beneficiary for Component 3 activities.

Topics being explored in 2018 contributed mainly to the R11 (*“Result 11: Efforts of the MoCA in improved care for poor rural people and disabled people are strengthened, and public information and transparency of social assistance policies are raised at provincial level”*).

1.4.2. Topic considered

In 2018 under Component 3 two topics were being elaborated (based on the 2018 work plan adopted during the PAC meeting on 6 February 2018). See table 1. Component 3 was performing research activities related mainly to the topics 3.3.2 and 3.3.3. All topics were subject to an evaluation in a view of continued relevance, and to the constant monitoring of the evolving socio-economic situation, as well as Government priorities in terms of social assistance system.

For the period under review identification and situation analysis for topics 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 have been finalized by the two Chinese experts as indicated in the Table 1.

Table 9 - Topics considered in 2018

ID	DESCRIPTION	R.	DATE STARTS
Component 3 - Improving of legal framework and policy for social assistance			
3.3.2	Providing services for social assistance beneficiaries	11	January 2018
3.3.3	Publicity of social assistance laws and regulations (techniques and instruments used for dissemination of information)	11	January 2018

Topics 3.3.2, 3.3.3 have been explored under research activities in the period February-October 2018 by two Chinese experts.

All finalised reports – assessment reports (Table 2) are published in a C3 2018 volume separate for the two research topics and have been shared with a broader audience via the Project website.⁵

1.4.3. Best practices

Best practices from EU countries were presented by the time of 5th Panel Discussion which was hosted by MoCA on June 23rd 2018. For the time of 5th Panel Discussion on the topics 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 Component 3 organized mission for two senior EU experts (Table 4.). The event was supported by two CN short-term experts and several external senior experts, central and local level MoCA staff members specializing in the topics discussed.

Table 10 – Best practices reports in 2018 (within the time frame of this review), Component 3

TOPIC	TITLE	INCUBENTS	OUTPUT	OBSERVATIONS
3.3.2	Providing services for social assistance beneficiaries	Olivia Rusandu	1 report EN	Best practice report submitted to MoCA by August 2018
3.3.3	Publicity of social assistance laws and regulations (techniques and instruments used for dissemination of information)	Jan De Coninck	1 report EN	Best practice report submitted to MoCA by July 2018

The 4th Component 3 Workshop was hosted by MoCA on 25th September 2018. Based on the briefing of Chinese social assistance in the field of 2018 topics as well as discussion and exchanges between Chinese and EU best practices report for the three topics 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 were provided.

The implementation of the project proved that in order to increase the relevance and to improve the focus of exposure to European best practices under each of the related topics, the selection of European best practices should respond to the needs identified by the Chinese counterparts.

The EU best practices in a form of policy recommendation reports were further elaborated by other three EU senior experts who executed reports in reference to each of the 2018 research topics. Please see table 5.

Table 11 – Policy recommendations in 2018, Component 3

TOPIC	TITLE	INCUBENTS	OUTPUT	OBSERVATIONS
3.3.2	Standards in social assistance benefits and services - legal framework, stakeholders, implementation, governance and administration with specific focus on social services	Camille Lambinon	1 report EN	Policy recommendation report to be submitted to MoCA by mid November 2018
Pilot related topics and 3.3.2	Standards in social assistance benefits and services - legal framework, stakeholders, implementation, governance and administration	Christian Moutier	1 report EN	Policy recommendation report to be submitted to MoCA by mid November 2018

⁵ https://www.euchinasprp.eu/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=190

	with specific focus on cash benefits including minimum income scheme and benefits for most vulnerable groups (disabled, children, etc.)			
Pilot related topics and 3.3.2	Standards in social assistance benefits and services - legal framework, stakeholders, implementation, governance and administration with specific focus on the institutional coordination of complex system of benefits and services within social assistance scheme from a perspective of transition country	Pavel Janecek	1 report EN	Policy recommendation report to be submitted to MoCA by mid November 2018

During the 2015-2018 several technical exchanges, policy dialogs and bilateral agreements have been undertaken between China and Consortium as well non-Consortium countries to ensure comprehensive approach to the EU expertise in the field of social assistance.

Table 12 – EU contribution to the Component 3 SPRP 2015-2018

	2015	2016	2017	2018
HLE / Policy dialogs / ministerial visits	Spain France Italy Czech Republic Romania Poland Belgium UK	Poland* Spain	Italy***	Poland** Belgium
study visits / trainings	-	Romania Czech Republic Poland	France Romania Poland Italy Belgium	Lithuania Sweden Slovenia Czech Republic
EU experts' mission to China	Romania Germany	Poland Ireland Slovenia Romania Greece France Belgium	Germany Belgium France Romania	Romania Belgium Czech Republic France

Non-Consortium countries

*executive agreement on bilateral cooperation was signed

**MoU for 2018-2023 between MoCA and MRPiPS was signed

***MoU work in progress

For the 2015-2018 Chinese stakeholders mainly MoCA got knowledge and practices exchanges through different channels – policy dialogs, high level meetings, trainings, study visits and EU experts' mission to China. The overall number of EU experts involved exceeds 150 in Europe and 40 in China.

1.4.4. Situational analysis

In 2018 according to the C3 work plan two research topics were undertaken by two Chinese senior experts in social protection field.

Table 13 –Situational analysis in 2018, Component 3

R	No	Topic	Incumbent	Output	Observation
11	3.3.2	Providing services for social assistance beneficiaries	CN expert 1 – Ms. Tian Rong	EN&CN report	Assessment report submitted to MoCA By mid-July 2018
11	3.3.3	Publicity of social assistance laws and regulations (techniques and instruments used for dissemination of information)	CN expert 2 – Mr. Gang Shuge	EN&CN report	Assessment report submitted to MoCA By mid-July 2018

The two Chinese experts after submitting the assessment reports for topics 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 continued their research and provided by the time of 4th C3 Workshop policy recommendation reports (Table 6.)

Table 14 –Situational analysis – policy recommendation in 2018, Component 3

R	No	Topic	Incumbent	Output	Observation
11	3.3.2	Providing services for social assistance beneficiaries	CN expert 1 – Ms. Tian Rong	EN&CN report	Policy recommendation report submitted to MoCA By mid November 2018
11	3.3.3	Publicity of social assistance laws and regulations (techniques and instruments used for dissemination of information)	CN expert 2 – Mr. Gang Shuge	EN&CN report	Policy recommendation report submitted to MoCA By mid November 2018

All finalised reports – assessment reports (Table 2) are published in a C3 2018 volume separate for the two research topics and have been shared with a broader audience via the Project website.⁶

1.4.5. Cross-topic activities

Panel discussion

The two Chinese experts working on the 2018 research topics together with EU expert took part in the panel discussion hosted by MoCA.

⁶ https://www.euchinasprp.eu/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=190

The 4th Component 3 Workshop was hosted by MoCA on 25th September 2018. Based on the briefing of Chinese social assistance in the field of 2018 topics as well as discussion and exchanges between Chinese and EU best practises report for the three topics 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 were provided.

The implementation of the project proved that in order to increase the relevance and to improve the focus of exposure to European best practices under each of the related topics, the selection of European best practices should respond to the needs identified by the Chinese counterparts.

Workshops on the analysis phase

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

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.

1.4.6. Overseas activities

Component 3 work plan for 2018 included three EU activities (two study visits and ministerial visit) for MoCA delegation to a few EU countries.

In 2018 MoCA (with the support of C3 SPPR) held a study visit to Lithuania and Sweden (May/June 2018) and to Slovenia and Czech Republic (October 2018) and a ministerial visit – leaded by Mr. Zhan Chengfu Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs P.R.China to Poland and Belgium.

In May under the coordination of Component 3 SPRP Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China was having exchanges in Lithuania in Sweden. 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.

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 organization 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.

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 as having practical exchanges with the central and local social assistance staff and NGOs.

In October 21-28th, 2018 Component 3 SPRP organized study visit to Slovenia and Czech Republic for MoCA central and provincial level staff members.

During the visit to Slovenia exchange meeting with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities was held. During the meeting introduction to the social protection system, cash benefits and IT system support for the social assistance system and 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 had an opportunity to learn the comprehensive approach to vulnerable groups which is used for the social policy implementation.

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 Tlckov.

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 on December 2nd - 9th, 2018

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

Ministerial visit and signing Memorandum of Understanding

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.

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 organizations mostly from Europe.

After, the visit to Belgium was mainly focusing on policy and practical experiences sharing and having knowledge exchanges with Belgium authorities. A session on organization 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.

1.4.7. Pilot Sites

Pilots for Component 3 practically started in March 2018 (the pilots exercise was proceeded by a research executed by Prof. Guan Xinping). It was decided that pilots will be implemented in four different locations at county level (covering urban and rural areas). Considering the needs and development of social assistance in China the west and north China provinces were at the main interest for the pilot location. The pilots are being implemented in Inner Mongolia; Jilin; Sichuan and Jiangsu provinces and county/district level – one location at each and every province.

For smooth implementation of the pilots a local agency - training/research institution in the field of social security (Nanjing University Social Security Research Center) was selected to ensure proper preparation of the pilots (executing baseline reports for the counties chosen for the pilots; organizing training; daily monitoring of the pilot process and their evaluation).

The first step was to set up the main goals and techniques to be used at pilot sites. For this purpose a research has been conducted. The output of the first research was provided by (June) a team under the leadership of Nanjing University in a form of base line reports (separate for each of the four locations). The final Program of the Component 3 pilot has been decided together with MoCA (central and provincial level) based on the research and after considering of local condition in the pilots locations.

In the framework of Pilot exercise Component 3 supports MoCA by involving Chinese research institutions working in the field of social assistance as well as Chinese and European experts. The main assumption is to provide the county level with baseline reports; detailed program of the pilots to be undertaken; provide training for the social assistance staff; monitoring and evaluation of the pilot outputs.

The Component 3 through implementing institution and in close cooperation with MoCA organized a training for MoCA staff dedicated to take part in a pilot. Activities to be undertaken include: training in China for county and township social assistance staff. Before the pilots start, there is a need of providing training to explain the goals of the pilot; actions to be undertaken and monitoring methods.

Finally, the pilot should provide a solid publication on the outputs of the pilots and their evaluation as well as possible follow up. This should include also other visibility actions on the pilot area.

Based on above Component 3 pilots could gather a reasonable number of social assistance officials getting professional knowledge and learning from experiences of the EU member states social assistance system. This, due to the internal rules and costs, is not feasible when such events are organized in Europe.

The very final result of implementation and execution of the pilots would be policy suggestions coming out from the pilots used for reform proposals within the legal framework of social assistance in China.

In 2018 several activities related to C3 pilots were organized:

Component 3 launching four pilot sites August 23rd, 2018

Component 3 SPRP together with Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.China following 2018 work plan organized 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 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 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 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.

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

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 grassroot 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.

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 site 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.

Social Assistance Comprehensive Reform Pilot Area Exchange Conference -Training session at the Nanjing University for the C3 SPRP pilot sites

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 to 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.

1.4.8. Human resources

The contract of the EU resident expert for Component 3, Ms Marzena Breza took effect on 23 December 2014. The EU resident expert of Component 3, within the Beijing Office in the assessed period was assisted by Ms Iwona Rogacka-Hu as from the end of January 2018. Component 3 is lacking operational Chinese expert mainly due to budget limitations and availability of Chinese experts in social assistance. This makes the daily cooperation with Chinese beneficiary (MoCA) of Component 3 much more challenging also from the perspective of limited efficiency of English communication between the Resident Expert and MoCA.

For Component 3 two Chinese experts were allocated during 2018. Around 80 working days (under new budget arrangements) will be allocated among CN experts by the end of 2018. Additional support was given to C3 pilots which includes several researches working in four C3 pilot sites. Around 30 working days were allocated in 2018 for the EU experts.

Table 15 – Human resources in 2018, Component 3

EU-CHINA SOCIAL PROTECTION REFORM PROJECT COMPONENT THREE - MONITORING OF HUMAN RESOURCES - 2018 as for November 2018									
#	CATEGORY			POSITION	DURATION W/D		INCUMBENT	OBSERVATIONS	
	CN EXPERT	EU EXPERT	OFFICE		ALLOC.	CONTRACT			
1		X		RESIDENT EXPERT			MARZENA BREZA	FULL-TIME / INCLUDING PILOTS WHEN DEFINED	
2			X	COMPONENT ASSISTANT			Iwona Rogacka-HU	PART-TIME / INCLUDING PILOTS WHEN DEFINED	
3	X			1. RESEARCH 3.3.2	max 40		Tian Rong		
4	X			2. RESEARCH 3.3.3	max 40		Gang Shuge		
5		X		CONSULTANCY FOR THE 5TH C3 PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE TOPICS: 3.3.2&3.3	14		2 EU EXPERTS (Jan De Coninck, Olivia Rusandu) FOR 7 w/d EACH	IN CHINA	Jun-18
6	x	x		RESEARCH AND OTHER KINDS OF SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BASED ON THE PILOTS NEEDS	Nanjing University		overall contract on implementing C3 pilots for a 30.000 euro contract	IN CHINA	April-Oct 2018
7		X		CONSULTANCY FOR THE 4th WORKSHOP ON TOPICS: 3.3.2 & 3.3.3	15		3 EU EXPERTS (Ms. Lambion Mr. Moutier Mr. Janacek) FOR 5 w/d EACH	IN CHINA	September 2018 - 4th C3 WORKSHOP
8	x	x		TRAININGS IN CHINA WITHIN THE C3 PILOTS FRAMEWORK (back to back to the 4th C3 Workshop)	see point 7		3 EU EXPERTS	CHINA	

2. Activity Plan for 2019

2.1. Horizontal activities

According to the Grant Application Form and the Standard Operating Procedures, the Horizontal Secretariat will keep on performing the following tasks:

- management of the Office based in Beijing, including the mobilization of local staff (Administrative and Financial Assistant, Interpreter) working on horizontal activities;
- organization of institutional meetings according to the scheduling approved by the Consortium (PAC and IMC meetings and closing ceremony), including the management of travels for Consortium Representatives and for international experts within their contract TORs;
- contribution to the preparation of project financial reporting and supporting documents, as well as certifications required by the Company in charge of the project audit;
- support in the realization of the visibility and dissemination activities; more detailed information is provided in the paragraph below.

According to the completion of the project activities forecasted for this final stage, a peculiar role has to be deputed to the dissemination activities to guarantee the wider visibility of the project results both to an International audience and to Chinese Beneficiaries.

2.1.1. Coordination and monitoring

The project reporting will be simplified in order not to overburden the project members in producing unnecessary material for the EUD while focusing only on the respect of contractual obligations which foresee regular annual reports, narrative and financial. The narrative report, in this final stage of the project, will be based on provisions of the Logical framework with special focus on the results dissemination actions.

2.1.2. Task Force

The project task force will update its on-going activities according to developments intervening under the various components. It will complete the Memorabilia on time for the project final event, to be scheduled by the project authorities.

2.1.3. Logical Framework

The Logical Framework scheduled for 2019 is the same prepared for the year 2018, indicated in paragraph 1.1.6 of the document.

2.2. Visibility Activities

As stated in the Grant contract and in the Visibility Guidelines, the overall communication objective is to ensure the widest visibility of project activities and results both to an International audience and to the Chinese Beneficiaries. The creation and the reinforcement of permanent synergies among the different bodies involved in the UE Social Protection Reform Project is the core of these final activities and every action should aim in part to this goal, besides the technical or scientific content.

The Communication Strategy has detailed the different Visibility activities that the Consortium has intended to carry out in order to ensure the dissemination of the key and sensitive initiatives promoted by the Project as well as the pursued results.

2.2.1. Design and Management of the project Website

The Horizontal Secretariat will keep managing the dedicated Project Website in order to define a consistent framework of references for the project stakeholders in particular and for the potential audience, domestic and international, dealing with the social security thematic. All the events, the documents, the experts' presentations, the debates on the specific topic have been and will be uploaded on the webpage for the widest dissemination of the project activities and outcomes. The content is available in English and Chinese languages, respectively at the following web addresses www.euchinasprp.eu/index.php/en/ and www.euchinasprp.eu/index.php/cn/.

The prompt and immediate uploading of the website contents required both by the Horizontal Secretariat and by the Project Staff in Beijing, as well as an easier web surfing both for Chinese and European users is guaranteed thanks to the Chinese Webmaster.

2.2.2.Design and Management of a Project Electronic Directory of Contacts

The Directory of contacts updated and shared on the Project Website Shared Area, allows all the authorized users (Project Consortium Representatives and Project Local Staff) to display and download the Data Base. The Horizontal Secretariat will keep on managing the tool, reporting and duly updating the Directory with every change of mail addresses or phone contacts which should arise.

2.2.3.Design and Management of Project Newsletters

While each Resident Expert will keep on producing a detailed Component Newsletter on a quarterly basis, the Horizontal Secretariat, supported by the local staff and INPS, will realize the last joint Newsletters, which will include also a brief overview of the activities performed during the reference period both within the Project and also on Social Protection topics in China and Europe.

2.2.4.Management of official project page on Social Networks

The local staff has an account of the Project in Weibo, the most popular Social Network in China; they are still waiting for its certification, due to administrative difficulties. The Local staff is trying to solve the problem with the Weibo management in order to obtain a compliance certification of the Project account and, once achieved, contents and photos for each event will be published.

2.2.5.Customization of the Communication Strategy for each event

Considering that the Components have agreed upon a customization approach of the visibility activities, these will be implemented according to the three Components Work Plans and to the specific requests that will be disclosed by the Resident Experts and their Chinese Beneficiaries for every single event.

The Project local Office will take care of the production of visibility material and gadgets that will be disseminated during Components events in China, last local meetings and especially for the closing event; the Horizontal Secretariat will take care of the production of gadgets to be disseminated in Europe.

2.2.6.Implementation of Visibility Actions

The Horizontal Secretariat will deal with design, printing and dissemination of Brochures, Leaflets and Project Information Reports, during the closing event, which will take place in Beijing more probably in September.

Furthermore, in these remaining months - if requested by the Component in charge - the Horizontal Secretariat will provide its support carrying out visibility activities to be conducted within the framework suggested by Chinese main stakeholders and taking into account the budget limitations. A special care will be dedicated to the organization and follow up of the Closing Event, to be organized in Beijing in September 2019.

2.2.7. Additional products for project dissemination and visibility

The Horizontal Secretariat in consultation with INPS in occasion of the final event will prepare dissemination material, which will be defined in the next future. The local office as well is intended to produce and/or to update some gadgets to be reviewed for the actual extension phase to provide during the last events in China.

2.2.8. Closing Event

A final project event is in planning for the year 2019: a closing conference of the project to present all the activities carried out in these 5 years and the results achieved for each component. It is essential to highlight the work done by the components and the positive implications for the Chinese beneficiaries and, in general, for the Chinese social protection system.

Currently there is not yet a specific date for this Closing Event but, in principle, it will be held in Beijing between September and November 2019. The intention is to invite high-level stakeholders (e.g. Chinese ministries, European embassies and other relevant Chinese stakeholders) to give light to the fruits of the SPR Project. Under decision it is also the possibility to hold the event during a single day or two days; during the 2019 will be decided all the details.

2.3. Component 1

The project Consortium met in Rome on the 24th May 2018 to discuss, among other topics, the possible extension of the project from November 2018 onwards. NDRC and the C1 project team in Beijing had submitted their proposal for the contents of this extension. The substance was first discussed on a meeting held in Beijing on the 14th May 2018. The Proposal is based on the same structure as for previous yearly programmes. It focuses on the perfection of one of the fundamental tasks assigned to the project, viz. to strengthen NDRC leadership capacities for national coordination in the realm of social protection reform, while securing the conditions for a longer term sustainability of project activities conducted under its Component One. It is anticipated that technical and component specific activities will be completed over a 8.5 months period running from 17 November 2018 to 31 July 2019. Initial proposals elaborated in July 2018 were subsequently revised with NDRC during the second half of November 2018, in view notably of time and other administrative constraints.

2.3.1. Overall objective and Expected results

At the inception of the EU-China Social protection reform project, some 18 topics contributing to 4 expected results had been assigned to Component One. Now when the initial scheduled termination date for the project has been reached, the Component is proud to report that, thanks to exemplary collaborating and working conditions among the various parties involved, practically all expected results could be achieved, and the technical fields covered through project activities indeed went beyond the anticipated topics.

The wealth of knowledge and proposals thus accumulated could however carry an even more sustainable contribution to the reform of social protection in China – in all of its social security, income distribution and employment components – through a reasoned retrospective and prospective appreciation of the situation, and

of the role NDRC is called upon to continue playing, in collaboration with its European partners from the Consortium.

It was therefore proposed, pursuant to Result R.2 assigned to Component One ⁷, to extend the duration of activities, to carry out the tasks hereafter described, intended at the consolidation of past work results and collaborative spirit, to exert a lasting influence in the realm of social protection reform in China. Limited resources, earmarked by not spent in 2018, should also go to implementing those delayed activities described in the preceding chapter⁸, contributing to results R1 (horizontal), R3 and R4 (component specific). Request for project extension submitted by the Project leader on behalf of the Consortium was agreed upon by the EU on 15 November 2018.

2.3.2. Topics to be covered

While the main contribution of Component One at the start of the project was to help NRC carry out its role of coordinator and source of proposition for the National Economic and Social Development Plan at a time when the contents of the 13th Five-year plan was under country-wide discussion, project activities have since then accompanied the implementation of the orientations retained by the Plan in the area of social security, income distribution and employment.

The achievements of the 13th five-year Plan, covering the period 2016-2020, could already be summarily evaluated, since it will have passed already its mid-term point and would enter into its final year when a project extended by one year would come to an end. Similarly, the year 2019 would be a key period to start envisaging the contents to be covered under the forthcoming 14th five-year plan (2021-2025) to be finalized in 2020, for which NDRC overall responsibility was confirmed by the National People's Congress at its March 2018 session.

It is therefore proposed to devote most of the remaining resources available for C1 activities to both the evaluation of known results in the implementation of the 13th Five-year plan, and the anticipation on the contents to be covered under the 14th five-year plan, as far as social security, income distribution and employment promotion are concerned. Some of these activities will deal with the planning process globally, as far as employment, income distribution and social protection are concerned, and others will focus on planning for specific objectives, e.g. income replacement to be achieved upon retirement.

The corresponding activities would primarily take place under existing topic 1.1.1, which currently reads "Social insurance administration systems reform – Contribution to the XIII Five-Years Plan" but could be reformulated into "Social insurance administration systems reform – Contribution to the Social and Economic development 5-year plans" with, as attached indicators under the project logical framework the addition of the following (result R.2) "NDRC preliminary evaluation of implementation of the XIII Five-years Plan in the realm of social protection, as well as its tentative proposals for inclusion in the XIV Five-years Plan are shared and discussed with other stakeholders". They might however also contribute to other, technically more specific topics, depending on the focus retained for the planning process.

The continuation, over the project extension period, of works foreseen for being initiated in 2018 with Guangdong province as pilot activities (statistics, and awareness-raising) would take place under the same topic. Follow-up action on the memoranda of understanding and other longer-term cooperation instruments to be finalised and agreed upon in 2018, would take place under the joint pursuance of project results R.1

⁷ Result R.2 reads: "Under the leadership of NDRC, coordination of policy making among government agencies in areas related to social protection reform is strengthened."

⁸ See notably points 2.2.1.4, 2.2.1.6 and 2.4 above.

(Mechanisms for EU-China high level policy dialogue on social protection reform) and R.3 (Capacity of NDRC in policy development and implementation) ⁹.

Activities delayed hence still to be implemented in Ageing and Gender issues would contribute to respectively results R.3 and R.4 (Ensuring full coverage in old-age). Discussing previous findings on Universal pension coverage would also contribute to result R.4.

2.3.3. Specific Activities

Completing on-going activities

During project extension, activities pertaining to 2018 programme of activities that, for a variety of reasons, could not be completed on time, will be conducted according to their specific schedules. This relates to Pilot activities with Guangdong Province – conducted in December 2018, see 1.2.7 above - and with Shanghai as well as to Gender considerations.

An international seminar on Gender issues in Employment and Social protection is now proposed to be held in conjunction with the 2019 PAC meeting on 24-25 January. The Seminar will be organised in Sichuan Province, which was also retained as a pilot for Component One project activities.

It is also envisaged to make use of research work conducted on Universal pensions in China under 2018 Programme of activities (see 1.2.4 above) to organise, during the first quarter of 2019¹⁰, a round table discussion meeting with participation of Chinese and European experts. This activity will be conducted with CASS.

The same period will be used to continue following upon the conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding and other similar instruments between NDRC and its European partners, as well as the first phases of their implementation. The MOU between NDRC and the Spanish Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social security was signed on 28 November 2018 in Madrid, and will start implementation in January 2019, thus benefitting from strong initial support by the project C1. An exchange of letters between NDRC (signed by its then vice-chairman Mr. Wang Xiaotao) and the EC Directorate General for Employment, Social affairs and inclusion (signed by the then Director general Michel Servoz) intervening in autumn of 2017 had confirmed the intention to continue the cooperation between the two parties.

Component Researches

Chinese experts will deliver assessment reports on the preliminary evaluation of results achieved under the implementation of the 13th five-years Plan and tentative contents to be proposed for inclusion under the 14th five-year Plan for, respectively, social security reform, income distribution and employment promotion.

As was the case in previous years, a Panel discussion meeting allowing for a peer review to take place will be organised in China at the beginning of the Spring period, with participation of European specialists previously selected to take part as experts in the International workshop referred to below.

⁹ This would be congruent with the relevant recommendations contained in annex 6 of the project mid-term evaluation report.

¹⁰ Tentative date. Except otherwise specified, dates indicated for activities to be conducted during project extension are subject to confirmation.

2.3.4. Overseas activities¹¹

Proposals that follow are based on the pattern used over the past four years for Component 1 overseas activities. Themes for overseas activities are linked to the topics otherwise retained for research works, which allows for peer reviews and ad hoc briefings/debriefings to accompany all such activities.

Overseas activities proposed for the year 2019 will be centred on the issues of planning for social security reform, income distribution and employment promotion, since planning is considered a key for sustainability in social protection – which requires predictability and delivery in promises to efficiently play its role of social and economic stabilisation factor in modern societies.

International Workshop, dialogue and study visit

It is proposed to hold during the first half of 2019 an international workshop in one European country followed by a dialogue and study visit to another 2 countries members of the consortium for a total duration of 10 calendar days (six people) around the topic of Planning for Sustainable social development.

Chinese national experts producing the above-mentioned assessment reports will submit their findings to the workshop, where European specialists from countries with most significant experience in planning for social and economic development will present their respective national circumstances. High-level contributions from the European Union as well as from specialised international agencies such as the World Bank, the OECD or the ILO will also be solicited.

Host countries for the international workshop and the subsequent study visit would include Belgium – thus allowing for continued contact with the European Commission – and two other European member States among those having established mechanisms for mid to long term planning in social protection, including relationship between central and decentralised action for social protection development.

High-level Training

It was initially envisaged to hold, during the Spring of 2019, a two-weeks high-level training for NDRC central and provincial officials on the topic of Planning for social protection reform – design, implementation, monitoring. It appeared however that in view of the past experience time allotted for project extension would be too short for organising, conducting and evaluating a fully-fledged training activity involving Provincial representatives. It was decided instead to conduct a narrower training exercise for high-level HQ officials in limited numbers, akin to a study visit. The theme retained for this activity was the Planning process for multi-tier pension protection. The activity would be held in France – where NDRC representatives could draw conclusions from five years of fruitful cooperation with Expertise France and hopefully agree on future cooperation patterns with France – and two other European countries,

The reduction of the scope in training would generate important savings compared to initial budget estimates for the extension period. This will allow for the organisation of specific activities for pilot and other Provinces, to draw a conclusion on C1 provincial initiatives over project life. Such an activity taking stock of past support and following upon results achieved would respond to one of the requirements for follow up mentioned during the project mid-term evaluation review¹².

¹¹ The proposals made for Overseas activities are based on the fact that the current “translation vs. international tickets” schemes was extended, at a level of financing corresponding, retroactively, to the average cost of international tickets estimated by Expertise France at some 1.600 euros for the type of activities considered. Six tickets are earmarked for C1 overseas activities during project extension period.

¹² EU-China Social Protection Reform Project – Mid-Term Evaluation, recommendation n. 5

Longer-term collaboration

The Component technical team will continue to follow the progress made towards the implementation of collaborative instruments between NDRC and its European partners¹³. The MOU with Spain signed in November 2018 will have as one of its first proposed activities a dialogue and provincial visit of a Spanish delegation to Sichuan Province to be held in January 2019, in conjunction with project activities related to Gender issues (see 2.3.3). The dialogue and study visit including to Belgium by NDRC HQ representatives will help consolidate longer-term cooperation with the European Commission (see 2.3.1). The focussed training cum dialogue proposed earlier in this paragraph will hopefully be conducive to longer-term cooperation arrangements to be agreed upon between NDRC and French competent authorities at Government level.

2.3.5. Cross-topics activities

Panel Discussion

Following upon the successful example of past years, it is proposed that national activities in China include a peer review – with participation of international experts – in the form of a panel discussion meeting. The Panel discussion meeting would address the research activities specific to project extension period – namely that devoted to Mid-term evaluation of the 13th Five-year plan and to preparation for the 14th Five-year plan in the areas of employment, income distribution and social security.

Pilot Sites

Activities that started being conducted in Guangdong Province in December 2018 on respectively the Enhancement of Statistics Management, as a tool for decision-making in the field of Social Security (at provincial level) and the Preparation of teaching material, to raise awareness on the importance of solidarity in social protection schemes and entrepreneurship (at municipality level) were considered of particular interest by the beneficiaries. Awareness raising activities will be further implemented and continued in Guangdong or other Pilot sites – aiming notably at ensuring their replicability and possible use in other locations.

A session specially dedicated to awareness-raising will be included in an end-of-project summing up round table meeting from Pilot and other provincial representatives to be organised in Beijing or other place in China to ensure that past activities were indeed positive for the work orientation and efficiency of beneficiaries outside NDRC HQ, and NDRC HQ and discuss the potential for continued collaboration involving European partners.

As envisaged in the proposals from the exploratory mission to pilot sites conducted in March 2017, a provincial study visit on management of social security will be organised for Guangdong representatives around the topic social security governance¹⁴.

It was anticipated that Shanghai Academy for Reform and Development would update their 2016 study on Confronting demographic ageing through social protection mechanisms¹⁵ following which a Provincial study visit to two EU countries faced with similar ageing preoccupations would be organised in early November 2018 (Spain and France had agreed to host the delegation). However, due to the heavy workload incumbent

¹³ It is expected that, by the end of 2018, memoranda of understanding or other collaborative instruments will exist or be under advanced negotiations between NDRC and, at least, the European Commission, Spain and France

¹⁴ This activity will be organized for 6 participants from Guangdong, tentatively 4 provincial representatives and 2 municipal representatives, in two countries for a total duration of 6 days. The cost of international travel will be borne by the Province.

¹⁵ See <https://www.euchinasprp.eu/images/documents/ReportHLE/HLEENV1.pdf> page 246 sqq.

upon Shanghai authorities towards the end of the calendar year, it was agreed to postpone the activity until early 2019, project extension permitting.

2.3.6. Publications

As a technical contribution to sustainability of project results, the project will proceed with the preparation and publication of three major output summarizing project results (electronic and paper versions, bilingual).

The three outputs considered are:

- All reports produced by Chinese experts;
- All reports from delegations part to overseas activities;
- Country profiles and monographs from EU member states.

These publications will supplement the Memorabilia produced in English by the Task Force.

2.3.7. Deliverables

The following table indicates the possible outputs and deliverables for activities envisaged during the project extension period.

Table 16 - Outputs and deliverables for Project extension period

Topic	Activity	Envisaged outputs and Deliverables
1.1.1 Social insurance administration systems reform		
	Statistics Management	Mission report Materials and methodology for replicability
	Awareness raising on importance of SS	Mission report Materials and methodology for replicability
	Provincial visit – Social security governance	Mission report
1.1.1 Contribution to the Social and Economic development 5-year plans		
	Preliminary evaluation of achievement from 13-5 and tentative proposals for inclusion in 14-5 in areas of social security, income distribution, employment promotion	Assessment reports
	International workshop	PPts, best practices reports, meeting report
	Dialogue and Study visit– Planning for sustainable development	Mission report
	Panel discussion	PPts, session report
	3-countries training cum dialogue on Planning for multi-tier pension protection	Mission report
	Summing up RT Pilot and Provincial meeting on Project achievement and prospects for cooperation	Meeting report
1.2.2 National policy evaluation techniques in social protection		
	Following implementation of MOUs and other collaborative instruments	Project report
1.2.4 Gender considerations in Employment and social protection		
	International seminar	Reports, PPts
1.3.3 Universal pensions		

	Round table meeting with CASS	Event report, PPTs
1.3.7 Ageing population		
	Study on demographic ageing, Shanghai	Research report
	Provincial visit on demographic ageing	Mission report
w/o # - Wrap-up activities		
	Thematic bibliographies on social protection	Electronic bibliographies
	Project memorabilia	CD ROM
	Technical Notes	Bilingual publication
	Project policy recommendations	Electronic bilingual publication

2.3.8. Human Resources

Table below provides a tentative breakdown of human resources to be allocated for proposed implantation of activities during the project extension period.

Table 17 - Human Resources, Project extension period

	Total Extension
Main C1 Chinese expert staff*	
Main Chinese expert 1 Zhang Guoqing	8 months
Main Chinese expert 2 Fang Lianquan	8 months
CN EXPERT SOCIAL SECURITY (13-5 and 14-5)	35
CN EXPERT INCOME DISTRIBUTION (13-5 and 14-5)	35
CN EXPERT EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION (13-5 and 14-5)	35
CN EXPERT STATISTICS - REPLICABILITY	5
CN EXPERT AWARENESS RAISING - REPLICABILITY	5
CN EXPERTS PILOT ACTIVITIES	20
CN EXPERTS GENDER	10
CN EXPERTS UNIVERSAL PENSIONS	10
TOTAL OTHER CN EXPERTS (C1)	155
Component assistant	80
Resident expert C1 JV Gruat	144
C1 EU PUBLIC SECTOR STAFF + SUBCONTRACTING	105
EU Expert Pilots	30
EU Experts PLANNING (BEST PRACTICES)	25

EU Experts PROVINCIAL SUMMING UP	10
EU Experts GENDER	30
EU Experts UNIVERSAL PENSIONS	10
* Main Chinese experts enjoy monthly fees since year 2 which does not match actually worked nb of days x standard daily fee. 9 months each foreseen for the extension	
	<i>Delayed from 2018</i>

2.3.9. Summary

Table 18 - Tentative timetable for implementation of Component 1 activities

Topic	Activity	Nov. 18	Dec. 18	Jan. 19	Feb. 19	Mar. 19	Apr. 19	May 19	June 19	July 19
1.0.1	Monitoring MOUs and other collaborative instruments									
1.1.1	Contribution to the Social and Economic development 5-year plans									
	Assessment reports									
	Panel discussion									
	International workshop									
	Policy dialogue & Study visit									
	Training cum dialogue – Planning for Multitier									
	Provincial study visit, Guangdong									
	Pilot and Provincial summing-up RT meeting									
1.3.1	Gender considerations in Employment and Social security									
	International Seminar (Sichuan Province)									
1.4.1	(Pilot) Extending protection in urban areas to address demographic ageing (Shanghai)									
	Documenting experiments									
	Policy dialogue and Study visit (F & Sp)									
1.4.2	(Pilot) Improving governance and raising awareness about social protection (new urban categories) - Guangdong									
	Statistics Management									
	Awareness raising on importance of SS									
1.3.3	Universal Pension system									
	RT Seminar									
w/o #	Wrap Up									
	Thematic bibliographies on social protection									
	Project memorabilia									
	Technical Notes									
	Project policy recommendations									

2.3.10. Revised Gantt

[illegible]

LEGENDA			
	Identification Phase: Situation analysis, Identification and review of possible relevant EU experience, Workshop with Stakeholders on the Identification Phase.		
	Analysis Phase: Specific analysis of relevant EU experience, Training visits to EU countries, Workshop with Stakeholders on the Analysis Phase, Elaboration of reform proposal.		
	Follow-up Phase: Follow-up and ongoing technical assistance and tool development, Training needs analysis and training definition, Possible Training conducted (EU and/or China), Possible pilot application, Evaluation of follow-up phase and lesson learned.		
T	In-country training	PD	Panel Discussion
OT	Overseas training	WS	Workshop
S	Study visit abroad	IW	International Workshop
P8	Pilot sites study visit abroad	HLE	High level event
TP	Technical cooperation, pilot sites	C	Technical consultancy by European expert

2.4. Component 2

Following the meeting of the Consortium that took place in Rome on 24 May 2018, MoF agreed on the desirability of extending the project activities at least till the end of July 2019. This would allow central and local governments to better appreciate and share the results of the research and training activities conducted during the 4 year of the project, while involving in a more extended way provincial departments of MoF. The C2 team and MoF started drafting the proposal for the 2019 activities on a meeting in May 2018 and the proposal was finalized in June 2018. Given the limited amount of financial resources available to the C2, the idea was to concentrate on dissemination activities both through provincial study visits and a final conference, while the C2 team would produce a summary of the main results of the research activities conducted in the four years of the project and of the policy proposals.

2.4.1. Overall objective and Expected results

The activities carried out by the C2 up to November 2018 have largely met the results that were originally planned and expected. However the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project, would greatly benefit by additional activities allowing them to gain an integrated vision of the outcomes of the training and research activities carried out during the four years of the project by C2 and to assess its impact on MoF capacity of financial management and supervision, policy design ability, management of social insurance funds, and more generally on the direction taken by the Chinese policy in the areas of social security.

The continuation of C2 project activities, including high level policy dialogue, technical visits and elaboration of scientific documentation will allow to continue to contribute to Result 6 *The capacity of MoF financial management and supervision of central and local model of social security system and the extension of social security system coverage are enhanced, in particular in the fields of division of expenditure responsibilities, mid -terms budgeting of fund, and performance assessment model*, and Result 7 *Enhance the top-level design ability in the basic pension insurance; establish actuarial analysis models for basic pension insurance reform*. The dissemination of the results obtained during the project will also represent a characterizing aspect of the extension phase.

1. In China the design of policies heavily relies on experiments and tests conducted at the provincial levels. Up to now the activities of C2 have been directed mainly to the central level. By now, MoF has indicated its interest in local study visits that could represent an occasion to understand how local governments interpret the directives coming from the Central government, to analyze the difficult problem of division of power between central and local governments, and the parallel need of integrating central and local activities, to compare different approaches to face similar problems.
2. A basic feature of the project is to provide MoF officials not only with case studies of EU practices, but also with opportunities to discuss face-to-face with European policy makers topics and themes related to the scope of the project.
3. At the end of the project, C2 has completed three training courses for a total of almost 50 high level officials of MoF, coming from all Chinese provinces and municipalities. Up to now the training activities have been judged in a very positive way by the trainees. However, the project has not assessed the outcomes and the impact of the training. This could be done by organizing in Beijing a meeting of all the trainees.
4. The research activities carried out by the component and the following seminars have covered the 10 topics listed in the 2018 Aide Memoire and provided in depth analysis of four research topics jointly chosen by the project team and MoF (also listed in the same Aide memoire). All these activities have

been pursued independently from each other, over a four-year period, and their outcomes cover hundreds of pages. Even a cursory look to the topics addressed shows that they are interlinked in many interesting ways and an integrated reading of the results, would not only represent a relevant value added for the Chinese beneficiaries and the EU stakeholders, but could provide interesting suggestions for the 14th five-year plan (2021-2025). Even more important, it would be the production of a comparative and integrated analysis of the policy suggestions elaborated for each topic. Finally, a “guide” to the relevant statistical information relevant for the topics addressed by C2 could provide a support for the design of evidence based policy measures.

2.4.2. Overseas Activities

Study assignment to Europe for MoF high level officials

Four high level MoF officials of the central government will visit two EU countries, the Czech Republic and Spain or Belgium for ten days. The general objective is to exchange practices and experiences with policy makers, officials of Ministries and representatives of social protection institutions on the policy measures to be adopted to cope with the impact of ageing. The activity could lead to the agreement on collaborative instruments between MoF and European partners. This activity is planned for June 2019.

2.4.3. Cross-topics activities

C2 Conference

After the completion of the C2 activities, between June and July, the MoF will organize and host a special closing event, a Conference that will gather central and provincial MoF officials, mainly those that took part to the C2 training courses in Europe, EU experts and high-level Chinese scholars. The Conference will allow to share and disseminate the scientific results that the C2 has achieved in the previous four years, as well as sum up the outcomes and impact of the project activities, both at the central and local level. The event will represent the official closing ceremony of C2 activities.

The MoF will be responsible for the organization of the Conference, venue, interpretation services and related costs and invitation of Chinese speakers. The MoF officials coming from the provinces will cover their participation costs. The Project will cover the expenditures related to the participation of EU representatives (possibly four Consortium members and three EU experts).

Survey of the results of research activities and policy proposals

The C2 team will actively cooperate with the Task Force in elaborating joint studies, technical notes, Project memorabilia, and in other wrap up activities of the project. More specifically, it will provide an integrated reading of the research results obtained by C2 activities, as well of the policy suggestions presented by EU and Chinese experts until the end of the project.

2.4.4. Pilot Sites

The C2 will carry out one or two provincial study visits¹⁶ in the Guanxi province and Tianjin. The general objective of the activity is to deepen the dialogue at the local level in the areas of financially sustainable policies

¹⁶ According to the budget availability, in 2019 the C2 will carry out up to 2 pilot studies, budget calculation in this document refer only to one pilot study.

in the fields of the pension insurance system, the medical insurance system, and the social assistance system to cope with the issue of a rapidly ageing population.

The MoF will be responsible of the organization of such pilot studies and the related cost of venues and interpretation, while the project will cover travel and accommodation costs of the EU participants (up to two EU experts, depending on budget availability, for a mission of maximum 6 days). The pilot study can take place in the period April 2019.

2.4.5. Deliverables

The following table indicates possible outputs and deliverables for the project extension period.

Table 19 – Component 2– Nov 2018 – July 2019 deliverables (preliminary list)

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	OBSERVATIONS
Nov 2018	8 th Component Status report	INPS C2RE	EN
Dec 2018	C2 4/2018 Newsletter	C2RE C2 Assistant	EN/CN
Feb 2019	Visit to Europe background materials	Coordinated by INPS C2RE	EN & possibly in CN
March 2019	C2 1/2019 Newsletter	C2RE C2 Assistant	EN/CN
April 2019	Provincial study visits background material	CN STE-MoF	EN&CN
May 2019	9 th Component Status report	INPS & C2RE	EN
May/June	Provincial study visit mission report	C2 RE, EU STE	EN&CN
June 2019	Study visit to Europe - mission report	MoF	EN&CN
June 2019	C2 2/2019 Newsletter	C2 RE C2 Assistant	EN/CN
June/July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic bibliographies on social protection Project Memorabilia Technical Notes Sum up of the project policy recommendations 	C2RE C2 Assistant	EN & possibly CN
July 2019	Summing up C2 Project Results Newsletter	C2 RE C2 Assistant	EN/CN

2.4.6. Human Recourses

Table 20 - Human Resources, Project extension period

	Total 2019
CHINESE EXPERTS	10
1 Chinese Expert provincial study visit	10
C2 EU PUBLIC SECTOR STAFF+SUBCONTRACTING	22
EU Expert Provincial Study	10
EU Experts Final Event C2 (fees for three Experts)	12
C2 RESIDENT TEAM	
Component Assistant	Full time
Resident Expert	Full time

2.4.7. Summary

Table 21 - Tentative timetable for implementation of Component 2 activities

Topic	Activity	Nov. 18	Dec. 18	Jan. 19	Feb. 19	Mar. 19	Apr. 19	May 19	June 19	July 19
2.0.1	Monitoring MOUs and other collaborative instruments									
2.1.4	An integrated system for the coordinated management of the social assistance system									
	Pilot study									
2.1.3	Alternative policy measures to cope with the impact of ageing on the financial sustainability of the social security system									
	Pilot study									
	Policy dialogue & Study visit									
2.1.6	Development of Old-age Services and Long Term Care System									
	Pilot study (combined with 2.1.3)									
	Policy dialogue and Study visit (combined with 2.1.3)									
w/o #	C2 Final Event									
	C2 Assessment Conference									
w/o #	Wrap Up									
	Thematic bibliographies on social protection									
	Project memorabilia									
	Technical Notes									
	Project policy recommendations									

2.4.1. Revised GANTT

[illegible]

2.5. Component 3

2.5.1. Overall objective and Expected results

Component 3 is continuously supporting MoCA in knowledge and information sharing on the legal framework on social assistance which mainly relates to Result 9: The capacity of MoCA for promulgating and enforcing the Social Assistance Law, it is therefore proposed to closely work with MoCA and to deepen the topic 1.1.1 Legal framework on Social Assistance by giving more focus to social services provisions (since the cash benefits scheme has been elaborated in the early stage of the Project) and involving social organization in the social service delivery.

As a part of lessons learned within SPRP Project and increasing priorities of MoCA, Component 3 is giving more attention to operational – practical arrangements of social services and activities of social organization as key stakeholders of social assistance actions. To intensify working on Result 11: Efforts of the MoCA in improved care for poor rural people and disabled people are strengthened, it is suggested to continue developing pilot exercises.

Extension of the Project would therefore on one side enable to deepen key issues which arose during implementation of the Project and on the other side to ensure receiving appropriate practical experience in pilots, which implement lessons learned from the Project. Following the experience of previous four years, the project in 2019 will be implemented in close cooperation with MoCA, two topics assessment to be provided through cooperation with Chinese experts.

The Project (as in previous years) will ensure EU experts knowledge sharing with the main outputs – EU best practices reports.

Project will contribute to the Workshop meeting to be organized for both new topics. Final result of research outputs will be submitting best practices / policy recommendation reports to MoCA.

2.5.2. Topics to be covered

Coherence among the various situational analysis will be provided by mid-term peer review and quality control conducted by Chinese short-term experts working under the supervision of the C3 EU Resident expert and MoCA.

Table 22 – Schedule for situation analyses

R	No	Topic	Incumbent	Deadline for providing situation analyses
9	3.1.1A	Legal framework on Social Assistance focus on social services provisions	CN expert 1	First draft report by March 2019 Final assessment report by mid April 2019
9	3.1.1B	Legal framework on Social Assistance focus on involving social organization in the social service delivery	CN expert 2	First draft report by March 2019 Final assessment report by mid April 2019

It is envisaged that an European expert will be provided for the situational analysis for each topic, in order to ascertain that the assessment reports correspond to the level and quality of information required allowing for proper matching with the corresponding EU experience in terms of best practices.

The output of this activity is to provide an adequate knowledge of Chinese situation related to the topic under consideration. The assessment reports in English document the findings and conclusions of the Chinese experts.

2.5.3. Specific Activities

Situational Analysis

Two experts will be identified early January and will perform an concise assessment reports with some specific policy recommendations for MoCA.

The review of the outcomes will be discussed during the Workshop hosted by MoCA with participation of central and local MoCA as well senior experts from the field.

Identification and Review of Possible Relevant EU Experience

For the time of Workshop meeting C3 will mobilise two senior EU experts to share EU best practices in reference to 2019 topics.

2.5.4. Overseas Activities

Policy dialog / Study assignments to EU Countries / international Workshop

For 2019 one EU activity, one study visit could be planned, to enable policy dialog meeting between MoCA and EU countries. Possibly the study visit will enable to host in one of the visited country an international workshop¹⁷ This activity should ensure follow up actions to be undertaken after the Project is being completed.

It is foreseen that the outputs of the study visit (mission report) will be shared within the Project.

2.5.5. Cross-topics activities

Study visit topic: TBD	May 2019
	Participants / Duration
2 EU countries – Topics TBD	a. 6 participants, 8 days

¹⁷ Due to some procedural limitations MoCA is currently able to visit 2-3 countries within 8 or 10 days respectively. Organizing an international Workshop could broaden the knowledge, practice sharing and discussion out of the two/three countries to be visited.

Workshop

Table 23 – EU best practices/policy recommendation reports

R	No	Topic	Incumbent	Deadline for providing situation analyses
9	3.1.1A	Legal framework on Social Assistance focus on social services provisions	EU expert 1	First draft report by March 2019 Final assessment report by mid April 2019
9	3.1.1B	Legal framework on Social Assistance focus on involving social organization in the social service delivery	EU expert 2	First draft report by March 2019 Final assessment report by mid April 20189

The output of this activity will be a solid ground for a preliminary formulation of desirable areas for reforms under the concerned topics, and a selection of European best practices worth deepening for that purpose. Deliverables will be reports on the Workshop session prepared by Chinese and European experts.

ITEM	March 2018
	Participants / Duration
Workshop Topics: 3.1.1 A 3.1.1B	20 participants, 1 day

The workshop will represent an unique opportunity, after duly analyzing the Chinese situation and the most relevant EU best practices, to start considering a set of draft reform proposals concerning the variety of topics already introduced under Component 3 Plan of activities, 2019.

The Component 3 Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for March 2019.

The Workshop will gather high level representatives of the Chinese stakeholders, Chinese and European experts and Component 3 representatives. Provisions could be made to facilitate attendance via videoconference of interested consortium members and project leadership. How-ever due to the time constrains it can be a challenging issue.

The preparation, holding and subsequent reporting of the workshop would benefit from the support of 1 Chinese and 1 EU expert for each of the three topics recruited for the project. The results and conclusions of the Workshop would be of direct use in shaping reform proposals and designing related technical assistance activities, including development of ad hoc tools, as foreseen under the Grant application form Follow Up phase (Macro-activities 3.8 and ff.).

Output of the Workshop will be a solid ground for considering further possible reform options to be finalised, and designing a programme of accompanying technical assistance and technical tools development to be implemented under project auspices. The deliverables will be the Work-shop report including proposals for reform options on each of the three topics being a subject of situational analysis in 2019, and a first set of proposed activities for a technical assistance programme and the development of relevant technical tools under the framework of the project Component 3.

Under the research study activity a complete reform proposals will be drafted based on the C3 overall outputs and C3 pilot recommendations.

2.5.6. Pilot Sites

The first pilot implementation started in late March 2018. Component 3 throughout the Project was executing 11 topics and MoCA expressed (already during the PAC meeting held on February 6, 2018) that the successful pilot implementation requires longer ‘Project life’. EUD (at the same meeting) also stressed the issue of limited time for Component 3 pilot implementation as a possible obstacle to achieve appropriate results.

Therefore the main task of all Component 3 activities in the extended period of Project implementation will be dedicated to pilot exercise. The second phase, from November 2018 to May 2019, will ensure reaching practical and operational experience in the new methods in social assistance which are being developed based on the EU experiences.

Extended Component 3 pilot implementation will also ensure to exchange the lessons learned between four different pilots’ locations in four provinces in China.

In 2018 to ensure broadening the C3 pilots impact few EU experts (including Consortium members) will be contributed to the knowledge exchange with pilot sites. Three visits under the leadership of C3 RE will be arranged by MoCA to C3 pilot sites. On this occasion technical meetings will be organized.

Table 24 – Tentative schedule for the C3 pilot visits for SPRP Consortium members and EU experts

January 2019 <i>Back to back PAC meeting</i>	SPRP visit to C3 Pilot site in Sichuan province
March 2019 <i>On the occasion of the Workshop meeting</i>	SPRP visit to C3 pilot site in Jiangsu province
April 2019	SPRP visit to C3 pilot site in Jilin province

The key output of the Component 3 pilot will be a package of policy recommendations proposals for MoCA based on the preliminary policy recommendations shared with MoCA on annual basis (2015-2019) and the experiences, knowledge and suggestions coming out from the practical exercise – pilots.

A summing-up conference (back to back to the closing event) is planned to be organized and possibly hosted by MoCA to enable exchanges, discussion and lessons learned from all pilot sites.

2.5.7.Deliverables

For December 2018 – November 2019 within Component 3 deliverables are provided according to the work plan and activities perform through the year.

Table 25 – Component 3 – Nov 2018-2019 deliverables (preliminary list)

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	OBSERVATIONS
Nov 2018	8 th Component Status report	MRPiPS & C3RE	EN
Dec 2018	C3 4/2018 Newsletter	C3RE Comp 3 Assistant	EN/CN
March 2019	Workshop meeting report	C3RE Comp 3 Assistant	EN
March 2019	Assessment / Policy recommendations report on topic 3.1.1.A	CN expert 1	EN/CN
March 2019	Assessment report / Policy recommendations on topic 3.1.1.B	CN expert 2	EN/CN
March 2019	C3 1/2019 Newsletter	C3RE Comp 3 Assistant	EN/CN
April 2019	Policy recommendations / Best practices report 3.1.1.A	EU expert 1	CN/EN
April 2019	Policy recommendations / Best practices report 3.1.1.B	EU expert 2	CN/EN
May 2019	Visit to Europe background materials	Coordinated by MRPiPS C3RE	EN & possibly in CN
May 2019	9 th Component Status report	MRPiPS & C3RE	EN
June 2019	Study visit to Europe mission report	MoCA	EN&CN
June 2019	C3 2/2019 Newsletter	C3RE Comp 3 Assistant	EN/CN
June 2019	2019 C3 Volume	Package of CN and EU final reports from 2017	EN/CN
June 2019	Report on the C3 pilot implementation	Nanjing University	EN/CN
June/July 2019	Final C3 Pilot report (output of the C3 pilot summing up conference)	Coordinated C3RE	EN/CN
June/July 2019	Final policy recommendation report	Coordinated C3RE	EN/CN
July 2019	Summing up C3 Project Newsletter	C3RE Comp 3 Assistant	EN/CN
July 2019	Task Force Project summing up documentation	C3RE Comp 3 Assistant	EN

2.5.8. Human Resources

Table 26 – Component 3 Human resources in 2019 (estimation)

EU-CHINA SOCIAL PROTECTION REFORM PROJECT COMPONENT THREE - MONITORING OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Nov 2018 - Nov 2019 as for Nov 2018								
#	CATEGORY			POSITION	DURATION W/D		INCUMBENT	OBSERVATIONS
	CN EXPERT	EU EXPERT	OFFICE		ALLOC.	CONTRACT		
1		X		RESIDENT EXPERT			MARZENA BREZA	FULL-TIME / INCLUDING PILOTS WHEN DEFINED
2			X	COMPONENT ASSISTANT			Iwona Rogacka-HU	PART-TIME / INCLUDING PILOTS WHEN DEFINED
3	X			1. RESEARCH 3.1.1.A	max 10		TBD	
4	X			2. RESEARCH 3.1.1.B	max 10		TBD	
5		X		CONSULTANCY FOR THE 6TH C3 PANEL DISCUSSION/Workshop ON THE TOPICS: 3.1.1.A&3.1.1.B	max 10		2 EU EXPERTS FOR 5 w/d EACH	IN CHINA Feb/March 2019
6	x	x		RESEARCH AND OTHER KINDS OF SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BASED ON THE PILOTS NEEDS	TBD		overall contract on implementing C3 pilots for a 30.000 euro contract in 2018-2019	IN CHINA Nov 2018/June 2019
7	x	x		TRAININGS IN CHINA WITHIN THE C3 PILOTS FRAMEWORK	max 5 max 5		EU EXPERTS CN EXPERTS	CHINA

2.5.9. Summary

Table 27 - Activities foreseen for 2019 (chronological order)

No	Topic	Date	location
1.	Situation analyses in depth on topics 3.1.1.A; 3.1.1.B	from December 2018 to March 2019	China
2.	Pilot sites (second phase)	November 2018 - May 2019	China
3.	Study visit to Europe	May 2019	EU
4.	Workshop on topics 3.1.1.A; 3.1.1.B	March 2019	Beijing-China
5.	Best practices reports / policy recommendations	March/April 2019	China/EU
6.	Final policy recommendation report	July 2019	China

7.	C3 pilot summing up conference (back to back to the Project closing event)	July 2019	China
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Tentative number of short-term experts contributing to C3 activities held in China between Nov 2018 – May 2019:

EU experts: 2 for Workshop in March 2019; each mission of the EU expert is foreseen for max 5 working days. Additional EU expertise could be mobilized for C3 pilot sites (for details see the table below).

Chinese experts: 2 CN experts – one for each research topic selected for 2018/2019 for max 10 w/d each of them.

ACTIVITY PLAN – COMPONENT 3

Topic	Activity	Nov. 18	Dec. 18	Jan. 19	Feb. 19	Mar. 19	Apr. 19	May 19	19-Jun	July 19
3.1.1A	Legal framework on Social Assistance focus on social services provisions									
	Assessment reports									
	best practises/policy recommendations									
	Workshop									
	Policy dialogue & Study visit									
3.1.1B	Legal framework on Social Assistance focus on involving social organization in the social service delivery									
	Assessment reports									
	best practices/policy recommendations									
	Workshop									
	Policy dialogue & Study visit									
3.2.1 and others	Pilot - Rural Comprehensive Reforms - “On-demand Assistance”—Pilot Venue Work Program of Da’an City, Jilin Province									
	Documenting experiments monitoring									
	Evaluation									
	final policy recommendations / C3 pilots' summing up conference									
3.2.2 and others	Pilot - Comprehensive Reforms — “Targeted Social Assistance Integration” Work Program for Dachuan Pilot Area, Dachuan District, Sichuan Province									
	Documenting experiments monitoring									
	Evaluation									
	final policy recommendations / C3 pilots' summing up conference									
3.2.1;3.3.1 and others	Pilot - Comprehensive Reforms on Social Assistance - “Simplifying Administration and Delegating Powers, Exercising Fair Supervision, and Improving Service Efficiency” —Pilot Venue Work Program of Xincheng District, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia									

	Documenting experiments monitoring									
	Evaluation									
	final policy recommendations / C3 pilots' summing up conference									
3.3.1;3.3.2 and others	Pilot - Comprehensive Reforms on Massive Assistance - "Helping the Weak" Pilot Venue Work Program of Zhangjiagang City, Jiangsu Province									
	Documenting experiments monitoring									
	Evaluation									
	final policy recommendations / C3 pilots' summing up conference									
w/o #	Wrap Up									
	Thematic bibliographies on social protection									
	Project memorabilia									
	Technical Notes									
	Project policy recommendations									

*if possible C3 pilots' summing-up conference will be organized back to back the Project closing event

2.5.10. Revised Gantt

LEGENDA	
	Identification Phase: Situation analysis, Identification and review of possible relevant EU experience, Workshop with Stakeholders on the Identification Phase.
	Analysis Phase: Specific analysis of relevant EU experience, Training/visits to EU countries, Workshop with Stakeholders on the Analysis Phase, Elaboration of reform proposal.
	Follow-up Phase: Follow-up and ongoing technical assistance and tool development, Training needs analysis and training definition, Possible Training conducted (EU and/or China), Possible pilot application, Evaluation of follow-up phase and lesson learned.
MSV	Ministerial study visit
SV	Study visit abroad
PD	Panel Discussion
WS	Workshop
HLPD	High Level Policy Dialog
C	Technical consultancy by European expert
HLE	First High Level Event on Social Assistance