

**COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2016 ACTIVITIES****DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS****MoCA delegation visit to Poland and Spain, April 21-26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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

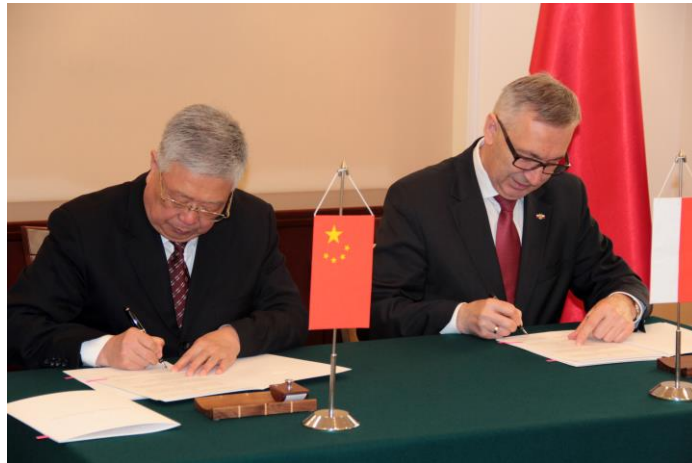
The main goal was of the visit was to strengthen the relations between two ministries cooperating as the main stakeholders within EU-China Social Protection Reform Project focusing on the framework of social assistance.



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

**IN ROMANIA**

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



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



## IN CZECH REPUBLIC

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



## IN POLAND

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



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



## **MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS**

### **C3 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

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

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

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



### **C3 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion on governance, policy transmission & monitoring and evaluation processes in social assistance, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**



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



### **C3 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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

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

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

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





## **OTHER ACTIVITIES – COMPONENT 3 RESIDENT EXPERT**

### **C3 local study visit to Jilin Province, July 18th-20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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

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



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

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



### **C3 local study visit to Qinghai Province, October 17th – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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





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

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







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