

COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2017 ACTIVITIES**DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS****MoCA ministerial visit to Italy, May 24th - 27th, 2017**

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

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

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

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

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





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

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



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



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



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

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









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

MoCA experts exchange meetings with the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland, September 13th - 20th, 2017

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

IN ROMANIA



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



IN POLAND

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

IN ITALY

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



IN BELGIUM

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

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



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

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

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





MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS

4th C3 Panel Discussion, June 29th, 2017

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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





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