

COMPONENT THREE – SUMMARY OF 2019 ACTIVITIES

DIALOG AND STUDY VISITS

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

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

SPAIN

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



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

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



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

PORTUGAL

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



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

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

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





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

MEETING ON RESEARCH TOPICS

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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





PILOT ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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