



2nd Coordination Meeting

1st December 2017

Palazzo Wedekind – Piazza Colonna, 366 - 00187 Rome

The Coordination Meeting of the Social Protection Reform Project (SPRP) was called to order on 1st December 2017 in Rome to discuss and deliberate according to the following:

AGENDA

09:30 - 09:45 - Opening and Project's status updates

Moderator - Project Leader

- Welcoming
- Introduction on project third year outcomes and improvements achieved by adopting observations shared during the previous PAC meeting

09:45 - 10:45 - Component and Horizontal progresses in 2017

Moderators - Component Coordinators, Resident Experts, Project Secretariats

- Progresses of project activities carried out in 2017 (performed and postponed)
- Visibility activities carried out in 2017

10:45 - 11:15 - Discussion with Chinese Beneficiaries

Moderator - Project Leader

- Discussion on activities carried out in 2017

11:30 - 12:30 - Project's scientific activities for 2018

Moderators - Component Coordinators and Resident Experts

- Presentation of a first draft of the activity plans of the three Components for 2018
- Enforcement of the coordination and integration among the three project Components

12:30 - 13:15 - Discussion with Chinese Beneficiaries



Moderator - Project Leader

- Discussion on activities to be carried out in 2018

14:30 -15:00 - Project duration extension

Moderator - Project Leader

- Evaluation of the possibility to extend the project duration, in accordance with Chinese Beneficiaries, given the availability of residual budget and the opportunity to explore some interesting topics

15:00 - 15:45 - Activities planned in case of project's extension

Moderators - Component Coordinators, Resident Experts and Chinese Beneficiaries

- Introduction of topics and activities to be possibly deepened and carried out during the potential extended project year

15:45 - 16:30 - Discussion with Chinese Beneficiaries

Moderator - Project Leader

- Discussion on possible activities to be carried out in case of project's extension

16:45 - 17:00 - PAC meeting

Moderator - Project Leader

- Definition of the PAC meeting date

17:00 - 18:00 - Other issues



ATTENDANTS

Chinese Beneficiaries:

Mr. Jiang Yu – Ministry of Finance, P.R. China

Mr. Liu Xiatang – Ministry of Social Affairs, P.R. China

Ms. Zhang Lin – Ministry of Social Affairs, P.R. China

Ms. Bi Ying – Ministry of Social Affairs, P.R. China

Consortium Members:

Mr. Massimo Antichi, Ms. Valeria Bonavolontà, Ms. Maria Grazia Rocchi – INPS, Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale (Italy)

Mr. Laurent de L'Espiany – Expertise France, Agence Française d'Expertise Technique Internationale (France)

Ms. Adelaida Bosch Vivancos – MeySS, Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social (Spain)

Ms. Graciela Izquier Hernández – FIIAPP, International and Ibero merican Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (Spain)

Mr. Marcin Pietruszka, Ms. Agata Tomasiak – Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (Poland)

Mr. Koen Vleminckx – SPF Social Security (Belgium)

Mr. Pavel Janeček – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Czech Republic)

Ms. Maria Teresa Pasqua, Ms. Sandra Nisticò, Ms. Claudia Della Torre – SISPI, Società Italiana di Servizi per la Previdenza Integrativa S.p.a. (Italy)

Resident Experts:

Mr. Jean-Victor Gruat – Component 1 Resident Expert

Mr. Michele Bruni – Team Leader and Component 2 Resident Expert

Ms. Marzena Breza – Component 3 Resident Expert



MINUTES

POINT 1 OF THE AGENDA – Welcoming and Introduction on project third year outcomes and improvements achieved by adopting observations shared during the previous PAC meeting

Mr. Massimo Antichi gives his warm welcome to all the attendees, pointing out that this is his first official occasion, as Project Leader, to chair a meeting between Consortium Members and Chinese Beneficiaries to discuss project achievements and activities.

Considering that the Project has reached the final year, he sums-up the most important challenges that have been overcome.

The Project Leader underlines that, during the first year of the Project, the implementation of the activities has not run smoothly due to the ordinary set-up phase and Consortium structure stabilisation, including above all project Secretariat and local staff organisation, and that during the second year the Project has started to fully perform its core activities. Consequently, in 2016 the first tangible results were achieved and, thanks to the new Project Secretariats structure, the management of organizational and logistic activities has started to proceed smoothly and has allowed our Resident Experts to focus on scientific activities.

During 2017, technical activities and outputs of the Project have been aligned with the Chinese Beneficiaries demands and this confirms the actual functioning of the SPRP Project management.

The Project, therefore, is on the way to reach the target results and the satisfaction of the Chinese counterparts. Furthermore, Mr. Antichi underlines that the Project is going to implement the key points that the EUD has observed during the last PAC meeting, and the recommendations given by the evaluators with the mid-term evaluation report: implementation of synergies among the three Components; sharing of the EU State Members experience; drafting of a “set of publications” for each project Component.

Mr. Antichi moves on illustrating the most important points of improvement, by outlining first of all that both EUD and evaluation and monitoring staff have observed the separate work of the three Components recommending synergies that could bring good opportunities and benefits. Consequently, the project team is working to encourage the enforcement of connections among Components avoiding overlapping of activities and topics, yet considering that each Component reflects the understanding of a different Chinese government Institution. As decided during the last IMC meeting, Resident Experts and Component Coordinators discussed both via telephone and in one



specific meeting, held just before this Coordination meeting, to envisage synergies and possible collaboration and cross Component activities that will be submitted to the Chinese Beneficiaries, first, and successively to the approval by the next PAC.

Secondly, the Project Leader underlines the importance of sharing EU Member States experience especially encouraging the recruitment of European experts even from Countries outside the Consortium. This approach is oriented to provide a wider vision of European best practices and to offer the best perspectives to the Chinese Counterparts in order to design their social security reform.

Furthermore, the Project's outputs should be spread out with "synthesis notes", a set of publications on EU experiences. This suggestion has been considered, with the approval of Ms. Yi Xiaolin, the former EUD Project Manager, who agreed the opportunity to draft a "set of publications" for each project Component to summarize the main results for each topic and to facilitate the disclosure of the work performed under the Project.

The Project Leader reminds also that the EUD has recommended a major participation of Chinese Partners and has suggested to increase the communication with the Partner's Embassies in Beijing as it could help the Project to establish high-level dialogue that will continue also after the expiration of the Project.

The Project Leader leaves the floor to Component Coordinators and Resident Experts to explain the results of 2017 activities.

POINT 2 OF THE AGENDA - COMPONENT AND HORIZONTAL PROGRESSES IN 2017

Mr. Laurent De L'Espinay, the Component 1 Coordinator, introduces the activities performed by Component 1 that are illustrated in the Component 1 PPT presentation and comments on the outputs that have been produced, outlining that the 5 tasks assigned have been performed and the events organized in Beijing and in Europe have reached important results. Mr. De L'Espinay explains how the sum-up activities will be useful in order to improve the research works still underway and outlines that this is a very ambitious task considering that Component 1 has 24 technical drafts to be finalized.

Ms. Valeria Bonavolontà, the Component 2 Coordinator, takes the floor explaining how during 2017 the delay collected in 2016 has been recovered by Component 2, which is now in line with the activity plan. She explains that, even if Component 2 manages only the 20% of the Project budget, it has the ambitious scope to develop 3 important topics. She also highlights that the Component 2 staff had a very busy agenda in 2017. Ms. Bonavolontà moves to sum up the papers produced and explains the



arguments discussed during 2017 by Component 2. She clears up that 3 panel discussions and a training in France have been successfully performed but there are few activities to be concluded in January 2018 that will complete the actions of the annual work programme. At the same time, a policy suggestion paper drafted by a staff of experts from Europe and China will be finalized and all the documents produced will be disclosed according to the 2017 activity plan.

Mr. Marcin Pietruszka, on behalf of the Component 3 Coordinator, takes the floor. He explains the busy 2017 plan of activities that will be concluded with the forthcoming event in Italy and Belgium. Component 3 is concentrated to conclude the 2017 activities in time by the end of the year. Mr. Pietruszka leaves the floor to **Ms. Marzena Breza** in order to provide a short feedback of Component 3 activities that were performed in the last year. First, she describes the 3 topics executed by the Chinese and European Experts and the direct and bilateral exchanges of practical experiences between China and Europe; then, she illustrates other activities that have involved European and Chinese Experts who have constantly worked together to perform actions for and with the MOCA staff. She explains the main topics illustrated in Component 3 PPT presentation and says that all the outputs of their work are included in a volume that will be translated by MOCA. Ms. Breza highlights how the Policy Recommendations have to be relevant for the stakeholder. She expresses also her gratitude to the Project Leader for the MOCA ministerial visit held in May in Italy, organized by INPS, and explains how Component 3 is getting continuous support from Expertise France not only for events organization. The Component 3 Resident Expert also thanks Romania and Poland for the standing support in their events execution. Finally, Ms. Breza concludes explaining that Component 3 has just concluded a mission of European Experts to China, and this was an occasion to have a daily and direct contact and exchange with MOCA officers and representatives.

The Project Leader asks if Partners would like to intervene and **Ms. Adelaida Bosch Vivancos** takes the floor explaining the importance of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with NDRC in early 2018 that will concern the theme of the ageing of population.

Mr. Koen Vleminckx takes the floor expressing his pleasure in meeting the Chinese delegation that will be hosted next week in Belgium.

Mr. Antichi intervenes informing that MOCA, during the visit to Italy held last May, and the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies agreed to write a Memorandum of Understanding that will probably be signed in the next months.



POINT 3 OF THE AGENDA - DISCUSSION WITH CHINESE BENEFICIARIES ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED IN 2017

Mr. Antichi thanks everybody for their interventions and asks the Chinese Beneficiaries to illustrate their opinion about the themes and information shared. **Mr. Jiang Yu**, the MOF Representative, is honoured to be in Rome and to be part of the meeting; he also thanks every single experts at the table. He expresses the satisfaction of the Delegation Leader for the Training performed in 2017 and declares that MOF is extremely satisfied of the workshop activities carried out, outlining that all the contributions are considered constructive and extremely helpful for China. He refers he has discussed with his colleagues about the training held in Italy in 2016 and they are extremely satisfied of the activities carried out. In the afternoon he will talk about the new 2018 topics. The MOF Representative declares that the cooperation under the Project is extremely fruitful and useful, and thanks especially the Italian Partner that has organized this meeting. Mr. Jiang Yu leaves the floor to the MOCA Representative **Mr. Liu Xitang** who thanks everyone for the participation in this meeting and in this Project in general. Mr. Xitang expresses his appreciation for the close collaboration with the EUD and European Partners in implementing Project activities. The MOCA Representative also thanks Expertise France for their support and help in achieving the good results of technical activities and in solving some organizational problems incurred at the very beginning of the Project. Mr. Xitang highlights how every year a delegation from MOCA is involved in a study visit to a ministry from one Consortium Partner outlining that, after Spain and Poland, in 2017 they came to Italy and met several experts involved in the topics of interest. Regarding this study-visit, the MOCA Representative outlines that during the visit the Chinese officers had the chance to learn from the hosting Country. Regarding the social security and social protection problems in China, MOCA has already started a fruitful collaboration that initially has been focused on envisaging standards and their implementation in order to provide an assessment of the overall situation. During the second year, MOCA focused on public responsibilities and duties at a central and a local level and also on monitoring, while the next year they will be focused mainly on operative procedures and follow up of SPRP project. During the last workshop in Beijing, MOCA staff and other people involved in the project had the chance to keep a very constructive dialogue with all involved experts, producing interesting results from different points of view. The MOCA Representative sums up that in the last 3 years the MOCA staff had the chance to follow step by step and go further to the making decision processes and this is extremely interesting and useful.



POINT 4 OF THE AGENDA - PRESENTATION OF A FIRST DRAFT OF THE ACTIVITY PLANS OF THE THREE COMPONENTS FOR 2018 - ENFORCEMENT OF THE COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION AMONG THE THREE PROJECT COMPONENTS

Mr. Antichi highlights the progresses reached in 2017 and asks the Resident Experts to clarify which activities will be closed within the end of the Project and how many funds they suppose will be consumed. Such prevision should be realistic and precise in order to evaluate the possible extension of the Project, which will be submitted to the EUD.

In order to share a clear overview of the financial situation, Mr. Antichi explains, supported by a presentation, that the Project has received 3,5 million euros and has consumed 650 thousand euros during the first year, 1,25 million euros during the second year and expects to incur expenditures of about 1,8 million euros in the third year. The residual funds available should be equal to about 3 million euros, part of which would probably exceed after the end of the Project.

Therefore, Mr. Antichi leaves the floor to the Resident Experts to illustrate activities the Components are planning to perform in 2018.

Mr. Gruat takes the floor explaining that Component 1 proposals for 2018 are consequence of many meetings with NDRC that unfortunately is not attending the meeting, due to unexpected commitments. He starts illustrating the five topics of Component 1 for 2018 included in his PPT presentation. Three topics are new, focused on how to ensure employment promotion, which is a key aspect in China and also in Europe, while 2 topics will be completed from the previous year, including one on the situation of women in employment and social protection. All are going to put forward proposals for reforms. It would be useful if work conducted under Component 1 on Gender considerations could be used as an input into activities devoted to Active labour market policies.

Researches on the 2018 topics will be carried out collecting EU background and experiences. Mr. Gruat outlines that Component 1 will use a dynamical approach, linking research work, training and organization of overseas activities for both central and pilot levels. NDRC hopes that Italy agrees to organize, in relation with a study visit to Denmark and Belgium, an international workshop around a topic related to active labour market policies. He highlights that signing Memoranda of Understanding is an important indicator of success for the Project, and thanks to Spain the first memorandum is about to be signed involving NDRC and two Spanish secretaries of State (social security and employment) for future cooperation centred on the ageing of population. Furthermore, Component 1 is going to implement specific actions for its Pilot Sites, including people's educational actions to draw attention to the importance of understanding Social Protection relevance for the well-being of the society. Mr.



Gruat expresses his satisfaction for working in Beijing and is confident that the extension of the Project will allow for the deepening of research, and the opening of new topics not initially foreseen.

Mr. Antichi thanks Mr. Gruat reminding the EUD advice to actively involve the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security in Component 1 activities and wishes that Component 1 will cooperate with the other Components on common topics.

Mr. Gruat replies saying that, concerning collaboration with Ministry of Human Resources, Component 1 has regular contacts with its representatives so that the Ministry is aware of what the Project is doing. Mr. Gruat explains there are no barriers for involving other Components in Component 1 activities; furthermore, he does not see difficulties in sharing information and he thinks cross activities can be easily organized. Whenever Component 1 organizes meetings of course informs the other Components. Concerning Gender topic, Mr. Gruat informs that the initiative to address this issue came from NDRC. Furthermore, he informs the participants that a technical meeting is planned in China concerning the social protection on female labour.

Mr. Michele Bruni starts expressing his confidence that, in spite of the short time left to cover all the topics (only 10 months), Component 2 will be able to complete all its activities, thanks to the good relationship with MOF. As far as the budget is concerned, he underlines the importance to produce estimates of the fixed costs of the project (mainly the Secretariats and Resident Experts); only then it will be possible to have a correct idea of the funds available for the core activities, research and events. Finally, Mr. Bruni suggests the necessity to start thinking about the possible legacy of the Project and suggests that, together with concise summaries of the main results of the research activities and a syllabus of the policy proposals, the Project could, especially in the perspective of an extension, produce a statistical data base covering, at the provincial level, the themes more relevant for the project (production, demography, labour market, etc.,). Such data base could be very useful considering that at present China is undergoing important economic and social changes and the capacity of providing background analyses is crucial to design and implement correct and effective policies.

Mr. Bruni moves then to present the 3 topics that Component 2 is going to cover in 2018: 1) Alternative policy measures to cope with the impact of ageing on the financial sustainability of the social security system; 2) Social contribution collections: toward a unified system; 3) The role of public finance in subsidizing the social security system. He does also indicate that Component 2 is planning to organize three research projects that will cover issues like occupations and gender equality in the LTC industry,



the long terms coherence between labour demand and supply, and the sustainability of the welfare system.

Mr. Antichi intervenes outlining that in consideration of the possible Project extension, he has requested the Secretariats to provide a precise and detailed list of the costs incurred and expected to be incurred, but in order to provide this list it will be also crucial to have a precise 2018 activity plan and of course respect the work schedule. Component 2 activities seem to be very challenging, therefore, Mr. Antichi suggests to Mr. Bruni to review the activities, in particular with a focus on the date scheduled, in order to define a smoothly program. Mr. Antichi promotes also a cooperation among project Components concerning common topics, by sharing information acquired so far. He also asks to Mr. Bruni a feedback on the chances of completing all Component 2 activities foreseen for 2018.

Mr. Bruni replies he is confident to conclude all the activities within the first half of November 2018.

Ms. Breza takes the floor and illustrates the two topics Component 3 will deal with in 2018, social assistance services and communications on social assistance, which will conclude the 11 topics assigned to Component 3 for the whole Project. Ms. Breza refers that the first pillar of Component 3 will focus on the implementation of social protection according with the arguments that will be chosen by the pilot sites in China. In fact, as MOCA is oriented to work with practical issues, Component 3 is focused to support its stakeholders not only on research but also on practical and tangible aspects. She underlines that the first month of 2018 will be, therefore, devoted to plan the policy recommendations, while during the following months a Panel Discussion and a workshop are planned. During 2018, pilot sites will be presented as MOCA is very interested in working on them. Ms. Breza passed the floor to the **Leader of MOCA delegation** who thanks for her presentation and highlights that MOCA is interested in the study of EU experience in order to implement the most suitable models in China basing the social protection policy recommendations and reform on the European best practise. In 2018 the implementation of pilot sites is crucial as the results and tests that will be carried out on site will influence the reform and its consequences. Therefore, if the results of the pilot will be good this means that our work has been successfully performed. In 2018 MOCA is planning to expand its efforts, so the Leader of the Delegation is confident there will be funds available to implement the pilot and the Chinese Experts will be able to draft the reform programme.

Ms. Breza continues stating that, given the budget constraints, Component 3 has planned only 2 study visit in Europe and training in China. After having visited all the Countries of the Consortium she wishes to organize a study visit to European Countries outside the Consortium. Any saving of the



Component 3 funds will be used to enlarge the participation to the activities in China of MOCA Staff. Ms. Breza summarizes the 2018 activities commenting the Component 3 PPT presentation and wishes to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Italy and MOCA as soon as possible (after the MOCA visit to Italy and thanks to the Project Leader for his support on this issue). Ms. Breza outlines the importance of social services and assistance and is confident of future cooperation among Components, for example on the topic of social organization; considering that all Components are involved with the gender issue. It will be possible to start collaborating on this activity.

The Component 3 Resident Expert informs the participants that their definitive annual activity plan will be disclosed in early 2018 and reveals that Component 3 has not detailed their activities yet as they are waiting for the definitive requirements and needs that will be indicated by MOCA and for information about budget cover. Ms. Breza outlines that if the Project will be extended, Component 3 would like to be assigned with new topics.

POINT 5 OF THE AGENDA - DISCUSSION WITH CHINESE BENEFICIARIES ON ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 2018

The Project Leader exhorts the Chinese Beneficiaries to illustrate their opinion about the themes discussed.

The Leader of MOCA Delegation agrees with Ms. Breza upon the opportunity to discuss the key points of the 2018 activities. He also agrees with the approach to the pilot activities outlining the need to draft a legal framework. He underlines the need to get more information to organize pilot activities and that it would be interesting to involve Countries outside the Consortium, which, given the different background and experiences, can provide useful support and contribution. These which can also arise from the involvement of NGO.

The MoF Representative highlights that the topics included in the draft of the Aide Memoire for Component 2 have been shared in advance with the Ministry so they are in line with their need and expectations.

POINT 6 OF THE AGENDA - PROJECT DURATION EXTENSION - EVALUATION OF THE POSSIBILITY TO EXTEND THE PROJECT DURATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHINESE BENEFICIARIES, GIVEN THE AVAILABILITY OF RESIDUAL BUDGET AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE SOME INTERESTING TOPICS

Mr. Antichi takes the floor and moves to the following point of the Agenda opening the debate on Project extension and the prior negotiation to be discussed with EUD. The Project Leader outlines that,



given the absence of NDRC in the present meeting, the debate will be partial even if Mr. Gruat may refer the NDRC positions. Mr. Antichi floorinform the participants that the Consortium Partners already express their propensity with a possible extension of the Project and the same it is for Chinese Beneficiaries on the basis of the informal exchange had with their related Resident Experts. This conditions constitutes the basis to proceed with possible discussion on this topic with the EUD; consequently, for the next PAC meeting, when the Aide Mémoire 2018 will be presented, it will be an occasion to present a common proposal for the project extension to the EUD. Mr. Antichi asks to the Components to share as soon as possible the contents for the section related to 2019 included in the Aide Mémoire including details about new topics to be faced rather than a deeper analysis of the themes already considered in the first years of the Project.

The Project Leader provides additional information on project progresses in order to evaluate the proposal of Project Extension.

In November 2017 the consumption of project funds is not in line with the initial prospects considering that the Project has spent only half of its financial resources. Mr. Antichi illustrates the funds so far received from EUD, about 3,5 million euros, and the expenses included in the first Financial Report, recently approved, and in the second Financial Report that is actually under certification by the appointed Auditor. Mr. Antichi summaries that the expenses incurred during the first and the second year of the project plus the expenses incurred in the third year – which are still an estimation considering that secretariat have not completed the collection of expenses and supporting documents yet - are about 3,7 million euros (this amount must be anyway considered still partial; it will be specified on the occasion of next PAC meeting). Therefore, considering that the total budget available for the project is 6,7 million euros there would be funds to be used during a possible extension period. Concerning the Project results, the Project Leader outlines that the consumption of funds compared with the budget plan shows an efficient financial management of the Project: all the topics and the activities foreseen until 2017 have been completed or carried out saving a relevant part of the budget. Finally, Mr. Antichi highlights that during the last IMC meeting held in September 2017 an important issue was discussed concerning the coordination among the Components to avoid overlaps and to assure the coherence of the results.

Mr. Jiang Yu, the MOF Representative, takes the floor and expresses his satisfaction for the meeting that has been very useful. He approves the activities carried out in 2017, outlining that the topics to be



deepened during the project extension will be defined in January before the PAC meeting. Finally, Mr. Yu thanks everybody for their contribution and expresses great expectations for 2018 and 2019 activities.

Mr. Liu Xitang, the MOCA Representative, takes the floor and expresses his appreciation for the SPRP project. For the possible Project extension, MoCA would be oriented to improve the legal framework. With focus on MOCA requirements, Mr Xitang explains that this is the most important topic: during the extension period MOCA needs to deal with legal issues and not organize oversize activities, but focus on pilot sites - and this is the main difference with the other components.

Mr. Guat takes the floor and with regard to the possible activities for 2019 informs that NDRC has not yet disclosed official proposals for the possible Project extension. Consideration is, however, given to make use of a possible extension to review the evaluation of progress made in implementing the XIII five-year Plan, and to already prepare for proposals to be submitted during the preparation for the XIV five-year Plan.

POINT 7 OF THE AGENDA - DEFINITION OF THE PAC MEETING DATE

With regard to the last point of the daily agenda, concerning the PAC meeting date, considering the involvement of Consortium Members, MoF and MoCA delegates, Mr. Antichi underlines the importance of finding an agreement all together. The Project Leader proposes, therefore, to schedule the PAC meeting during the period from the 29th January to the 9th February 2018, before the Chinese New Year Celebrations. Having agreed all the participants on the period proposed, the Project Leader informed them that a communication would be sent to the EUD in order to check their availability for the period identified and a feasible date for them, so as to be able to ascertain the availability of Chinese Beneficiaries and Partners as well.

Mr. Antichi asks the participants if someone intends to intervene. Nobody takes the floor and therefore the debate is closed and the meeting adjourned.