



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

# C2 Newsletter

## Summer/Autumn 2019

### From the Resident Expert

In less than a month the EU - China Social Protection Reform Project will be history. When I went to school in the 1950', history was still a tale of Kings and Empires, battles and dates, famous people and their deeds. With time I have learned that the relevant history is that of people, of their daily problems, of the way in which the human condition evolves. In this perspective two things come to my mind.

The first is that I am really happy that I have been involved in a project that has been dealing with the human condition and has tried to contribute to improve the social assistance of people in need and the security of the elderly. We tried our best, but only time will say if the activities of the project will have some positive impact.

The second is that my personal history of the project is mainly a tale of the way in which my relationship with the officers of MoF has evolved, of the experiences we have shared during three beautiful and intense training periods in Europe, of the many meetings we have held together; my tale is the tale of the more than 100 Chinese and EU experts the project has allowed me to meet and of the many things I have learned from them; my tale is a tale of growing up while growing older.

This is why I feel very lucky and honored I had the possibility to work in this project as a member of a very committed international team.

Goodbye Beijing!  
Michele Bruni

### COMPONENT TWO TEAM



**Michele Bruni, Resident Expert**



**Valeria Bonavolontà, C2 Coordinator  
from April 2017- ongoing**



**Antonello Crudo, C2 Coordinator  
from April 2016 until March 2017**



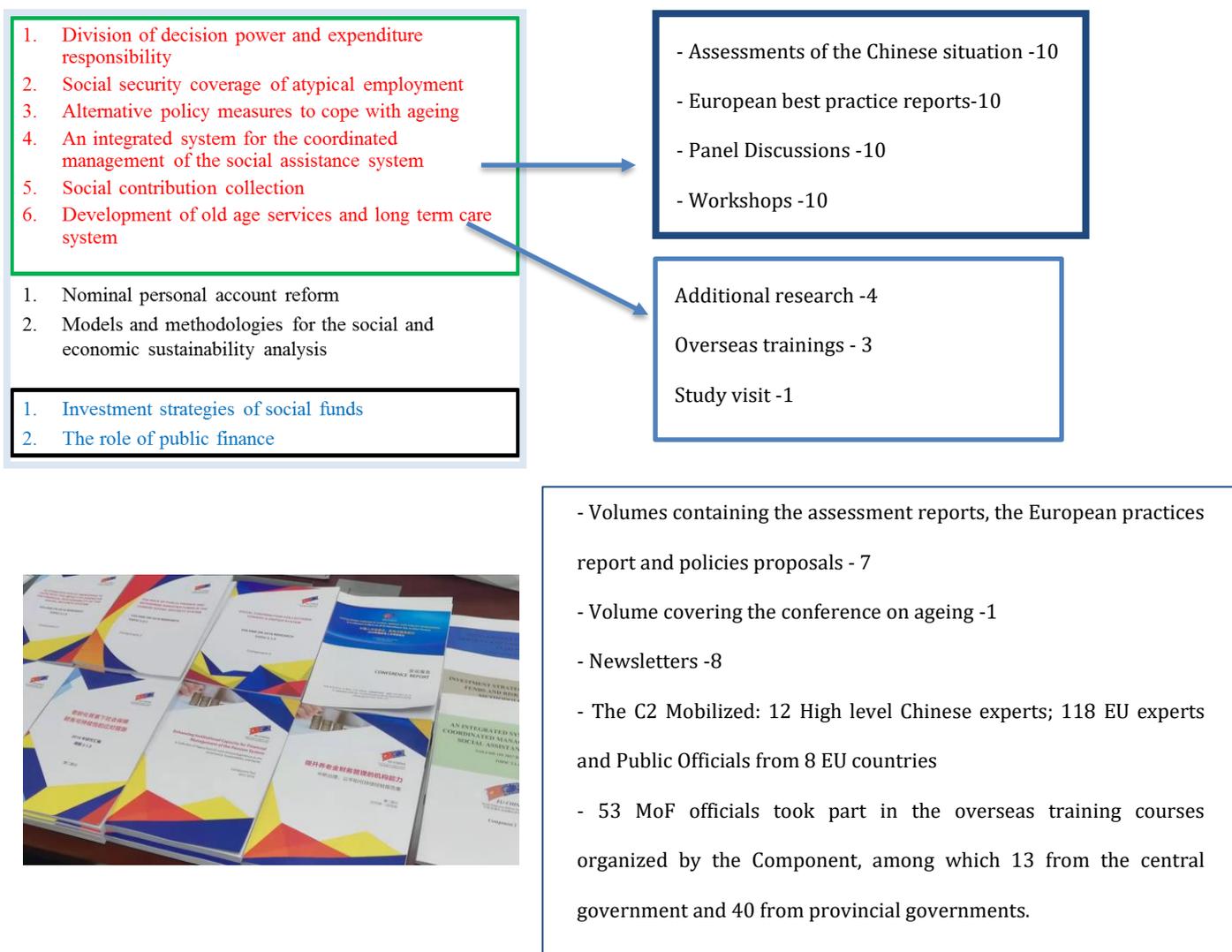
**Prof. Li Zhen, Main Chinese  
Expert**



**Valentina Pignotti, C2 Assistant**



## Summary of the output of the component: activities and deliverables



### Tianjin & Guanxi Pilots

From 1st to 4th April 2019, the SPRP C2 conducted two pilot visits to Tianjin and Nanning (Guangxi province). The team was composed by Mr. Michele Bruni (Resident Expert), Mr. Yang Liangjin (Social Security Department, central MoF) the experts Mr. Mel Cousins and Ms. Yu Guo, and the C2 assistant, Valentina Pignotti.

The pilot mainly focused on the financial management and supervision of the urban pension system in the two provinces. The mission aimed at investigating the current status & main challenges of the pooling mechanism of the pension system at the provincial level, including good experiences and issues to pay attention to; revenues and expenditures, financial subsidies, balances of the urban pension funds and the operational forecasts for the next few years.



#### KEEP IN TOUCH

After the project closure you can still consult the project website for a few months: <http://www.euchinasprp.eu/>  
The project outputs will be accessible through a USB pen-drive that will be shared at the Closing Event.





The final output of the activity was a set of policy suggestions to enhance the sustainability of the pension fund, better protect the treatment level of the insured, and further improve the urban pension system.

The pilot activities started on April 1st in Tianjin, where the group held a seminar with the Tianjin Financial Bureau and then visited two Social Insurance Centers. From April 2nd to 4th activities included seminars with the Nanning Financial Bureau, visit to the Social Insurance Center, visit to the Nanning city elderly welfare institute.

### **MoF Study Visit to Bucharest and Brussels. Social Protection Policies in an Ageing Society- Funding Issues**

From 6th to 9th July 2019, a high-level delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Finance (MoF), led by Mr. Fu Jinling, Director General of MoF Social Security Department, visited the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice in Romania and the Federal Public Service Social Security in Brussels.

During the study visit the delegation had a comprehensive policy exchange with high level representatives from the two European governments on topics of adequacy and sustainability of pension systems in the context of demographic ageing; financial and social sustainability of the social protection system; governance; budgetary and actuarial planning on social assistance, employment and mobility policies; fraud in social security, etc.

In Bucharest, the delegation visited the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, where they learned about the Romanian social protection system: social services, social benefits, employment, budgetary planning, etc.; the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (NAPSI), where they discussed the budgetary planning and social inspection procedures; the National House for Public Pensions (NHPP), where they had exchanges on topics of pension system organization, functioning, and reform. Finally, they visited the Pasarea Monastery where they could have a firsthand experience on the provision of services for elderly care and measures to combat old-age poverty.



**Romania, Opening Ceremony with the Representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice- Secretary of State, Ms. Elena Solomonesc**



**Romania, National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (NAPSI)**



### **Belgium, Federal Public Service Social Security**

In Brussels, the delegation was received by the Federal Public Service Social Security, where they had an exchange on: 1) the challenges of social security financing, addressing the topics of sustainability of pensions in the context of demographic ageing and modeling the long-term sustainability of social protection; 2) social security financing in Belgium, discussing the topics of managing the collection of mandatory social security contributions in Belgium and social security compliance and fraud.

Overall, the study visit was a successful policy dialogue experience of mutual learning and exchanging practices among European countries and China.

### **C2 Final Event**

On 31st July 2019, the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project - Component 2 held a closing event with the Social Security Department of MoF to wrap up the achievements and results of the five years implementation of the project.

The meeting, chaired and moderated by Mr. Di Donghui (Deputy Director General, Department of Social Security, Ministry of Finance), started with opening speeches by the Director General of the Social Security Department of MoF, Mr. Fu Jinling, who stressed the relevance of the project work, the impact of the activities on daily duties of MoF and the role of the project in strengthening ties between EU countries and MoF; by the EUD Project officer Ms. Sakura Moretto; and by the C2 Coordinator, Ms. Valeria Bonavolontà (INPS).

In the first session, Mr. Bruni, the C2 Resident Expert, summarized the overall activities and results achieved during the project life, while some of the Chinese experts that worked for C2 provided their personal feedback and opinions on the project impact on their work as well as on their view on some research areas.

Following, Ms. Bonavolontà, presented a summary of the overseas training courses and study visit carried out by the C2, which involved a total of 53 official of MoF coming from 31 provinces and mobilized 107 EU experts and government officials, rising relevant issues not only for China but also for EU Countries. The discussion on the overseas activities was then enriched by Ms. Liu Liqun (Director, Department of Social Security, Finance Bureau of Jiangxi Province), who shared her impression and feedback on the impact of such activities in widening her knowledge on EU policy measures, impact on her daily work, enrichment of professional network, etc.

Overall, more than 30 participants attended the event, in representation of MoF central and local governments, the EU Delegation to China, the Italian Institute of Social Protection, the Bank of Italy, the EU-China SPRP, the Renmin University, and the Chinese Academy of Social Science.

