

DCI-ASIE/2014/350-601
EU-China Social Protection Reform Project

Component 2 macro-activities

(Annual Work Plan 2017 – Macro-Activity 2.1 to 2.12)

***Up to 5 European senior social security specialists
From France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, and the
Netherlands***

Topic 2.1.4

**An integrated system for the coordinated management of the social
assistance system**

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

1. Background

1.1 General

The purpose of the EU-China Social protection reform project (“the Project”) is to contribute to the improvement and inclusiveness of China’s social protection system through strengthening the institutional capability for developing policies, for implementing legal and regulatory frameworks and for supervising systems of social insurances, social assistance and financial management in the area of social security. In particular, the Project’s purpose will be pursued through the following three components in relation to which specific Chinese government entities playing the role of partner of the consortium have been identified:

- i. Component 1: Consolidation of institutional capacity for social protection policy development and reforms in collaboration with the National Development and Reform Commission (“NDRC”);
- ii. Component 2: Enhancing of institutional capacity for financial management and supervision concerning social security funds in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance (“MoF”); and
- iii. Component 3: Improving of legal framework and policy for social assistance in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs (“MoCA” and, together with NDRC and MoF, the “Chinese Ministries”),

These ToR fall under Component 2 of the project.

2. Description of the Assignment

2.1. Overall and Specific Objectives

2.1.1 Overall Project Objectives

The overall scope of the SPRP project is to further develop social equity and inclusiveness of economic development throughout Chinese society. For the Component 2, the main target is to enhance the institutional capacity for financial management and supervision concerning social security funds.

In 2017, the Component 2 will analyze the following three topics:

2.1.4 An integrated system for the coordinated management of the social assistance system

2.3.1 Development of Old-age Service Industry and Long Term Care System

2.3.2 Investment strategies of social funds and risk control methodologies

This ToR is for the topic 2.1.4

2.1.2 Specific Objectives

In recent years, Chinese social assistance has rapidly progressed. The promulgation of the Interim Measures on Social Assistance (2014) has represented a fundamental step that has determined a better integration of funds and institutions, promoted a better coordination among departments and the rapid development of means-test procedures, as well as the identification and check of the beneficiaries. However, a notable level of fragmentation still exists and the 3rd Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee has stressed the need to pursue and fully realize the modernization of the

governance system and the governance capacity of the country.

MoF underlined some of the main problems that affect the expenditure performance of the Chinese Social Assistance system, hence challenging the poverty alleviation effectiveness:

- i. In the first place the **connection and coordination among schemes** are insufficient and the resources devoted to social assistance are too scattered, which leads to a sub-optimal articulation between programs and policies, and results in the use of social assistance funds less effective than desired
- ii. The **management** of the system needs improvement
- iii. The **sharing of information and resources** among departments is not adequate
- iv. Multi-departmental, overlapping and missed **delivery of benefits** co-exist in the system-

In relation to these problems, MoF listed the following challenges to be considered as priority:

- 1. Optimize institutional design and coordinate social assistance resources*
- 2. Strengthen the integration and coordination of social assistance funds*
- 3. Standardization and scientification of Social Assistance and increase of protection level in line with socioeconomic development*
- 4. Establish positive incentive mechanisms*
- 5. Establish mechanism to promote a reasonable balance of responsibilities among the state, the society, and the individuals*
- 6. Construct information sharing platforms and strengthen the mechanisms to check information*

In order to find the best solutions for the challenges just outlined, selected EU experts will document relevant experiences of four/five EU countries.

2.3 Requested Services

The Experts will perform their assignment in close collaboration with the EU C2 Resident Expert. They will submit a mid term draft for comments and amendment suggestions by the project team. They will also eventually take part in the dedicated Panel Discussion to be organized in Beijing, in June 2017.

Each Experts will produce for a given country a detailed national brief, including a background of the social assistance programs, on the following themes (the list can be adjusted by the Expert):

- ✧ The integration of social assistance schemes and policies
- ✧ Coordination of social assistance with other social protection schemes and poverty reduction programs
- ✧ Classification of beneficiaries and alternatives methodologies to assess eligibility
- ✧ Integration and coordination of funds¹
- ✧ Benefit bundling, benefit traps and incentives to work
- ✧ The role of central and local government in: financing social assistance, assessing eligible beneficiaries, and allocating social assistance funds

¹ It is to be underlined that the coordination of the social assistance funds is the most important aspect of the research.

✧ Information platforms

Finally, the report will indicate the main challenges of the current policies, trends and future perspectives for reform.

2.4. Outputs

- a Country brief of around 30 pages, in English
- a power point presentation in English (maximum 20 slides).

The experts will also, if requested, present the main contents of their works during the Panel Discussion to be organized in Beijing in June 2017.

3. Experts' Profile

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The Expert's required qualifications are:

Professional qualification:

Relevant University Degree within the relevant sectors of Demographic Analysis, Social Protection, Law, Political Science, and Economics Study;

Experience

- 10 years experience of working in areas related to Social Protection and/or Employment policies at the domestic and international levels - A proven record of accomplishment in preparing and implementing EU or other donor technical cooperation funded projects. - Excellent organizational, communication, writing and interpersonal skills

3.1 Working Languages

The incumbent should be fluent in English both verbally and in writing.

4. Location, Duration and Budget

Location: Experts' countries and Beijing

Timing: **1 April to 30th June 2017. First draft of country brief by end-April 2017, final document by end of May 2017. Power point presentation by the Panel Discussion timing (June 2017).**

Working days: **Maximum 15 w/days for each expert**

5. How to apply

Interested Expert(s) are requested to submit three documents:

1. Candidacy – Letter of intents
2. A CV in English (Europass format suggested), possibly in word format
3. A copy of her/his Identification Document

Applications are to be sent to C2 Resident Expert, Mr. Michele Bruni: Michele.bruni@eucsprp.org with copy to Comp2.InpsProgettoCina@inps.it within the established deadline of 31st March 2017.