

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN PARIS

With the objective to strengthen institutional capacity for social protection policy development and reforms in China, **Component 1 (C1) of EU-China Social Protection Reform Project (SPRP)** is commissioned to organize study visit, foreseen in the plan of the project as one of the key and normal activities, for its Chinese beneficiary, the **National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)**, particularly, its **Department of Employment and Income Distribution (DEID)**.

From 13th - 21st September of 2017, a study visit was conducted in Europe, during which the Chinese Delegation from the DEID (the Delegation) had attended meetings and paid visits in three EU countries, namely, **France (in Paris), Sweden (in Stockholm) and Finland (in Helsinki)**.

The Delegation was led by **Mr. Li Kang**, new Director General of the DEID since 2017, with the following members:

Mr. Niu Ming, official of Social Security Division, DEID, assuming the role of secretary for the Delegation;

Ms. Zhang Xia, official of General Division, DEID; and

Mr. Li Xiaoliang, official of the Employment Division, DEID.

The organizational and logistical support was provided by Expertise France, particularly **Mr. Laurent de Lesplnay**, coordinator of C1, with background work done by **Mr. Jean-Victor Gruat**, resident expert of CD1, assisted by **Ms Li Lingxi**, assistant of C1 and **Mr. Dai Bowen** from International Cooperation Center (ICC), who helped translating the slides presented in the meetings.

For special reasons, **Mr. Giovanni (Guowang) Lin**, assumed the role of assistant to this study visit, mainly working as companion of the Delegation and interpreter of the conferences and meetings.

During the conferences and meetings, researchers and representatives of EU counterparts invited by C1 gave speeches or made presentations to the NDRC delegation, constituting major activities of this study visit contributing to the overall assessment and reform proposal phases of the EU-China SPRP Component 1 programme of activities . The following paragraphs are mainly dedicated to the summary of these presentations.

International Workshop: Towards Fair Affordable and Adequate Pensions – Parametric Reform and Redistribution through Public Pension Schemes



Workshop is the final stage of researching activities planned in the SPRP framework. This workshop in Paris is the conclusion of C1 research topic related to redistribution effect of pension system.

Participants of the workshop include officials from EU agencies, member-states and OECD, and experts from EU and China. They made their presentations respectively in the sessions of the workshop:

In **Opening Ceremony**, Mrs **Nathalie Nikitenko**, Delegate for the European and International Affairs, Ministry of Solidarities and Health, Ministry of Labour (France) and Mr. **Li Kang**, Director General, DEID, NDRC made key-note speeches for the workshop.

Mr. **Andraz Rangus**, Chair of EU Social Protection Committee Working Group on the Pension adequacy report, made his presentation on Pension adequacy in European Union countries.

In the 1st session **Parametric Reforms in Public Pension System**, Mr. **Mr. Koen Vleminckx**, Director General Strategy, Research and International, Federal Public Service Social Security, Belgium, took the chair.

Ms. **Zhou Hong**, Researcher, Member of Academic Board of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), made her presentation on Chinese pension reform, and the relevance of the European experience.

Following are experts from EU member-states that gave reviews on pension systems in their respective countries, including Mr. **Jan Skorpik** and Mr. **Marek Suchomel**, from Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Czech Republic; Ms **Anne Lavigne**, General secretary, Pensions Orientation Council from

France; Mr. **Carlo Mazzaferro**, from University of Bologna, Italy; Mr. **Andrzej Szybkie**, from the Social Insurance Institution ZUS, Poland; and Mr. **Karl Birkholz**, from the Swedish Pensions Agency, Sweden.

In the afternoon, it's the 2nd session, which is on The Influence of Parametric Reform on Redistribution through Public Pension Schemes, chaired by Ms. Zhou Hong, CASS.

For this session, Mr. **Li Shi**, Dean of China Institute for Income Distribution, Beijing Normal University, made his presentation on Current and prospective redistribution through the Chinese pension scheme for urban employees;

Mr. **Pieter Vanhuyse**, Danish Center for Welfare Studies 30 minutes made his presentation on Political Economy of Pensions and Redistribution effects in Europe; and

Ms. **Céline Thévenot**, Social Policy Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD, made her presentation on Trend, causes and remedies to income inequality in OECD.

Following the 2nd session was the general discussion, and then Mr. **Li Kang**, Director General, DEID, NDRC and Mr. **Bertrand Barbé**, Director General Delegate, Expertise France made closing comments on the international workshop, marking the success of the conference.

Policy Dialogue



Policy Dialogue is an activity foreseen by EU-China SPRP as an event for the Chinese beneficiary to make face-to-face talk with EU counterparts.

During the study visit, a Policy Dialogue was held in the morning of 15th September, with the participation of NDRC delegation, including NDRC officials led by Director General **Li Kang**, professor **Zhou Hong** from CASS and professor **Li Shi** from BNU, and EU counterparts, including Ms. **Barbara Kaufmann**, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG, European Commission; Mr. **Stefano Scarpetta**, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD; Mr. **Antero Kiviniemi**, Social Protection Expert, Finland Representation to the EU; Mr. **Koen Vleminckx**, Federal Public Service Social Security, Belgium
Mr. **Michel Villac**, Vice-President of French High Council of Family, Children and Aged Persons (HCFEA).

Mr. **Michel Villac** and Mr. **Li Kang** were the co-chairs of the dialogue.

The dialogue was divided into two sessions:

1st: **Employment and Social Integration**; and

2nd: **Social security and income redistribution**.

During the two sessions, EU and Chinese participants had made their speeches and exchanged their opinions on concerned issue, in particular the income distribution effect, as well as social integration function, of social security system.