3.2 Component Two

Component Two was in charge of pursuing 3 of the 11 results assigned to the project. Its activities focused on three main areas: financial management and supervision of central and local social security system; top-level design ability in the basic pension insurance; and management of social insurance funds.

Activities conducted in-country and abroad consisted mainly of research, training and policy dialogue activities.

3.2.1 Who is Who in Component Two

The main Chinese stakeholder for Component Two activities is the Department of Social Security within the MoF. On behalf of the Consortium, the Italian Institute of Social Protection acts as coordinator. The Component secretariat is handled by Italia Previdenza – SISPI S.p.A., wholly subsidiary of INPS.

The project team in Beijing consisted of a Resident Expert, a component assistant and a main Chinese expert in charge of research (2015-2017).

Who is Who in Component Two

3.2.2 Results pursued

Component 2 was in charge of pursuing project results R.6 to R.8. It did so focusing of the main related challenges affecting the China social protection system, for which it formulated a number of policy recommendations, drawing inspiration from in-depth national analysis of the situation and relevant European experience.

Component 2 Results pursued

3.1.3 Baseline Data

The project component 2 produced a report summarizing the overall situation concerning China’s Pension and Health Insurance System and its need for reform. The baseline report (2015) presented the status quo, achievements and challenges of the Chinese pension and health insurance system.

Diagnosis & Baseline Data

3.1.4 Audience of Project results

Among the target groups, five are expected to be concerned with project’s results at all levels of their respective structure, namely high level officials, managers and staff.

The Ministry of Finance- MoF is the main stakeholder and beneficiary for Component 2 of the project as it plays a key role in financing social protection. The Department of Social Security is responsible for the central social security budgets and sectional budgets of Ministry of Human resources and Social security (MoHRSS), Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) and the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC); budget auditing of national social insurance funds; allocation of social assistance fund and the relevant financial policies as well as the fiscal expenditures of social security, employment and medical care.Beyond MoF, C2 beneficiaries include a wide array of ministerial bodies and social organizations. The final beneficiaries are unemployed, workers, employers, and elderly of China, as well as the general public.

Audience of Project results (Component 2)

3.1.5 List of Topics

Under each of the Results assigned to the project, the Grant application form foresaw that a list of topics would be explored, that were deemed to concur best to the pursuance of said results. The list was to be revised and adjusted to better reflect the priorities of the Government and the evolution in the prevailing economic and social context. For C2, the list of 10 topics was amended on a yearly basis, to cover the aspects of reform in social protection policy relevant to the Ministry of Finance.

Final list of topics

3.2.6 List of Experts

C2 activities facilitated contact between Chinese and European Experts on 130 opportunities. This involved 106 EU experts from 8 countries.

High level Chinese specialists involved in C2 project activities numbered 11, contributing to national researches conducted on 10 technical topics.

List of EU Experts

List of Chinese Experts

3.2.7 List of countries visited

Overseas activities conducted under Component Two programme of Activities included three overseas Training courses.

Countries visited

3.2.8 Work Summary

Summary of works conducted by respective components was included in half-yearly Component reports and submitted to the EU as evidence of tasks accomplished under yearly Interim reports.

3.2.8.0 The 2018 Special Event on Ageing

The project Grant Application Form provided for the organization of high profile international Conferences in order to set up the conditions for activating and cultivating a close cooperation with all the actors of the SPRP project (Result R.1). Such events were expected to be organized yearly from 2015. On this regard, C2 in September 2018 organized the Conference “Population Ageing in China: Impact and Policy Scenarios”. The conference was organized on the occasion of the 2018 International Day of Older Persons, which is commemorated annually on 1st October, to highlight the important role that older persons play in society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing, which are common both to China and Europe.

Mr. Chris Wood, Minister and Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to China, Mr. Dang Junwu, Deputy Director of the China Center for Scientific Research on Ageing, and Prof. Michele Bruni, Team Leader of the EU-China SPRP opened the conference. Over 60 participants attended the event, representing Chinese government agencies - National Development Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Civil affairs, China Social Insurance Association, China Population and Development Research Center -, as well a civil society, international organizations, EU member state embassies and academia. Among the speakers, renowned experts such as Prof. Zheng Bingwen (CASS), Mr. Wang Dewen (World Bank), Prof. Asghar Zaidi (Seoul National University, London School of Economics) and many others discussed a series of topics and research results obtained by the EU-China SPRP, including: evaluations of the ageing process and its economic impact; the sustainability of the Chinese pension system and the role of the enterprise annuity funds in creating a multi-pillar system; how to improve elderly care services and education and vocational training implications created by the fast expansion of the long-term care system.

The Conference also produced a set of policy suggestions that attracted the attention of institutions and media present at the event.

Conference Report “Population Ageing in China: Impact and Policy Scenarios”

3.2.8.1 Policy recommendations

One of the major aims of the Project was to draft selective recommendations for future reform proposals in the realm of social protection, for the consideration of competent Government organs, and primarily of the respective project partners.

Component two contributed to the elaboration of a set of policy recommendations on all the topics attributed to C2. The policy suggestions were presented and discussed with MoF and experts, in ad hoc internal and external project meetings. They were publicly available on the project website.

2015-2016 Reform Proposals

2017 Reform Proposals

2018 Reform Proposals (work in progress)

3.2.8.2 Assessment and other reports

The research work conducted under the framework of Component Two was periodically published in yearly volumes, including assessment reports made by Chinese Experts on selected topics, backed by reports on European situation in corresponding sector.

2015 – 2016 Volume

2017 – Volumes

2018 – Volumes (work in progress)

3.2.8.3 Workshops and other meetings

Findings from research works were discussed first so-called panel discussion meetings, in fact peer reviews where researchers (Chinese and some European) could submit their preliminary findings to MoF, the project office and EUD representatives and workshops where refined conclusions and recommendations were submitted to a broader audience.

Panel discussion meetings

Workshops

Other meetings (WORK IN PROGRESS)

3.2.8.4 Training activities

Starting from 2016, the C2 organized in Europe a training course per year for 15 to 18 MoF central and local officials. Each training was conducted over two weeks time in one country, around one of the topics selected for review in that given year. Sessions were a mixed of class-room and field visits, with theoretical courses delivered by experienced experts from both the host country and other European countries. Training materials were compiled and published in English and Chinese language, from dissemination by MoF and use in its own internal capacity-building activities. Participants in overseas training activities showed a high level of satisfaction for these exercises, as per the evaluation systematically conducted at the end of the activities.

2016 Training in Italy (Rome and Florence) European Practices for a Fair and Sustainable Social Security System. Governance, Long term Strategies and Financial Management

2017 Training in France (Paris and Marseille) Social Security in an Ageing Society: EU Practices Responding to the Demographic Challenge

2018 Training in Italy (Rome and Milan) Financing the social security system in an ageing society: the role of public finance and private supplementary funds

3.2.8.6 Pilot sites

Pilot Sites were not originally contemplated for C2, as the Ministry of Finance focus more attention on central-level policy analysis and did not request local level activities. In 2018 C2 in cooperation with MoF agreed to carry out up to two provincial level studies to deepen the research work at a local level and learn from new experiences.

(work in progress)

3.2.8.7 Newsletters

Component two published quarterly bilingual Newsletters. Component 1 Newsletters were printed and mailed quarterly. Electronic version was dispatched in China and abroad. The Newsletters were also accessible from the project website.

Component Two Newsletters

(work in progress)

3.2.8.8 Publications

Component Two outputs of activities were systematically posted on the Project website whenever available in both English and Chinese languages, as well as published in printed form and dispatched on a regular basis. More specifically, C2 published yearly volumes of its Assessment reports, which are a compilation of research on a set of topics within social security

3.2. 9 National partners (MoHRSS, ACFTU, CASS, Renmin etc.)

Besides MoF, C2 main stakeholder, Component 2 had constant dialogue and relations with entities and individuals interested in project works. The component has actively participated in a series of meetings and exchanges with several national and international institutions based in Beijing, such as the Chinese Academy of Social Siences; Renmin University; Beijing Normal University; Beijing Women Federation; China Center for International and Economic Exchanges; Chinese Academy of Governance; China Population and Development Research Center; Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security; Italian Embassy; British Embassy; SOAS.

(work in progress)

Outside events with Component Two participation

3.1.10 Memoranda of Understanding

C2 has worked to support the signature of Memoranda of understanding or equivalent instruments between MoF and European partners, to use as a basis for continued and sustained cooperation in the area of social protection. It is wished that by the closure of project activities MoF can establish such cooperation instruments with EU partners.

(work in progress)