



Social Protection Reform Project  
中国欧盟社会保护改革项目

### 1.3.6 Extending working life through pension system reform

A compilation courtesy of the Spanish Ministry for Employment and Social Security

#### Component 1

One of the critical elements in the parameters used for the determination of access to and level of benefits in the Chinese pension system (Urban employees) is the (considered) very low threshold to be entitled to a full pension, viz. 15 years of contributory services – while pension levels for this period of contributions had to be kept sufficiently high to avoid mass poverty among pensioners. Across Europe, countries have, over the recent past, also been considering and implementing measures primarily intended at increasing the duration of active working life on the basis of which duration pension entitlements are established. The present note, shared with the project by the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security, summarizes the main aspects on which measures were recently taken by the various EU Member States.

The problem of the sustainability of pension systems has occupied much of the international agenda of recent decades. As a result of their study, proposals for reform have emerged in order to ensure their long-term survival. In Europe, the most recent reforms started in 2008 and continue today, and involve parametric reforms focused mainly on raising the retirement age, linking the evolution of life expectancy with retirement age and also with the amount of the pension.

Increasingly tight access to early retirement and efforts to increase the employment rates of older workers and the effective age of exit from the labor market have played a prominent role in the reforms of all countries and in The annual country-specific recommendations in the context of the European Semester.

Pension reforms usually have considerable transitional periods before they have a full effect. However, due to the great impact of the crisis on public budgets, in some countries recent reforms have affected not only future pensioners but also current pensioners. In any case, pensioners have been less affected by the crisis than the assets.

Even before the crisis began, it was clear that the magnitude of the aging population would force most Member States to raise the retirement age. To date, 24 Member States have increased or begun the process of raising retirement ages, while seven have introduced a mechanism to link the legal

retirement age to life expectancy. In addition, many countries have decided to change the regulation of early retirement.

The table hereafter details the elements of pension reform that aim to improve the sustainability of the system through the extension of working life, which have been adopted in the countries of the European Union during the period 2008- 2014.

### RECENT ELEMENTS OF PENSION REFORM WITH THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING WORKING LIFE

COUNTRY	YEAR	ACCESS TO EARLY RETIREMENT MORE DIFFICULT	INCREASE IN LEGAL AGE FOR EARLY RETIREMENT	INCREASE IN LEGAL RETIREMENT AGE	INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTORY PERIOD	AUTOMATIC INDEXING TO LIFE EXPECTANCY	COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN WORK AND PENSION RECEIPT
AT	2013	X	X				
BE	2012/2014	X	X				X
BG							
CZ	2011				X	X	
CY	2012					X	
EE	2010			X			
DE	2014			X			
DK	2011	X	X	X		X	X
FI	2012	X					
FR	2010/2011	X		X	X		
EL	2010/2012	X	X	X	X	X	
ES	2012	X	X	X	X		X
HU	2010	X		X			
HR	2013			X			
IE							
IT	2011	X	X	X	X	X	
LV	2011			X	X		
LT	2010			X			
LU	2012	X	X				
NL	2012	X		X		X	
MT							
PL	2008/2010	X		X	X		
PT	2012/2014	X		X		X	
RO	2011			X			
SK	2010/2012					X	X
SI	2012	X		X	X		
SE							
UK	2011/2014			X		X	

Fuente: Estados Miembros

ATAustria; BEBelgium; BGBulgaria; CYCyprus; CZCzech Republic; DEGermany; DKDenmark; EEestonia; ELGreece; ESSpain; FIFinland; FRFrance; HRCroatia; HUHungary; IELreland; ITItaly; LTLithuania; LULuxemburg; LVLatvia; MTMalta; NLNetherlands; PLPoland; PTPortugal; RORomania; SESweden; SISlovenia; SKSlovakia; UKUnited Kingdom

May 2017.