

"SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT PROGRAMME"

NATIONAL TRAINING EVENT ON SOCIAL-SECURITY CO-ORDINATION

Hani i 2 Roberteve Prishtina, Kosovo 8 June 2006

As part of the SISP activities, on June 8 2006 a National Training Event on social security coordination was organized in Prishtina, Kosovo. The training was focused on the coordination mechanisms and requirements of EU and Council of Europe.

The event was held at Hani i 2 Roberteve and 29 participants were a subject to this training. Participants attending the National Training Event were from diverse backgrounds and represented various institutions such as: the Parliament, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Institute for Social Policy, and NGOs.

Presentations were given by Mr. Sixto Molina, SISP Programme Manager, DG III-Social Cohesion, Council of Europe; by Prof. Francis Kessler, Professor at University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, and lawyer at Gide, Loyrette, Nouel Paris, and by Mr. Bruno de Pauw, expert at the National Office for Social Security, International Agreements Service, Belgium, and lecturer at the University of Gent, Belgium.

The presentations of the lecturers covered the following subjects:

- ➤ The Council of Europe perspective and legal instruments for social security coordination;
- The personal scope, and the four principles of social security co-ordination;
- Principles of applicable legislation;
- > Pension benefits coordination;
- > Unemployment benefits;

- ➤ Health care benefits and health insurance;
- > Social security coordination in the Western Balkan region.

The agenda of the NTE was designed in such a way that each presentation by the lecturers was followed by interactive workshops were participants were requested to demonstrate the knowledge gained through the presentations on different aspects of social security coordination. The workshops used practical case studies, which participants were invited to solve, as means to assess the level of understanding on social security coordination. Each workshop was characterized with very constructive debate and argumentation on the side of the participants, hence, reaffirming the high quality and clarity of the presentations.

It is worth noting that most of the participants were extremely happy with the quality of the training and requested that they are invited in future similar events. Furthermore, they requested that all available materials on this topic (including the PowerPoint presentations of the lecturers) to be sent to them via email.