



“SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT PROGRAMME”

**NATIONAL TRAINING EVENT
ON SOCIAL-SECURITY CO-ORDINATION**

**Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
17 October 2006**

A National Training event on social security co-ordination in the light of EU and Council of Europe requirements and legal instruments took place on 17 October 2006, in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The event was held in hotel Bosna; 27 participants from the Ministry for Labour and Veterans, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons, Health Insurance Found, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Philosophy - Department for Social Work, Centre for Social Welfare, as well as members of non-governmental organisations attended the training.

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 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 co-ordination: exportability of benefits, and its requirements and limitations;
- Unemployment benefits, and their international aspects and implications;
- Health care benefits and health insurance: (limitations of) the exportability of benefits;
- Social security co-ordination in the Western Balkan region: multi- and bilateral instruments signed and ratified by the countries in the region.

Most presentations were followed by workshop in which the participants were invited to demonstrate the knowledge and understanding they had acquired of social security co-ordination, by solving practical case examples.

The training has been conducted in a very positive and constructive atmosphere, and the participants actively participated in the workshops.

Many of the participants expressed their interest in further training of this type, which they consider useful and needed, especially having in mind present aspirations of Bosnia and Herzegovina for full membership into the European Union .