



Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

SSCSSR(2008)1SCFINREP

1st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

12th June 2008

Hotel Dubrovnik, Zagreb
Croatia

MEETING REPORT

1. Opening and welcoming remarks

Mr. Milenko POPOVIĆ, the Director of the Pension and Disability Insurance Directorate of the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship of Croatia opened the meeting with his welcoming speech. He greeted the participants on his own behalf, on behalf of the Ministry and especially in the name of the State Secretary, Mrs. Vera BABIĆ, who due to some earlier taken commitments could not attend this meeting.

Croatia, being a candidate country for the EU membership is paying much attention to the issues of coordination of social security systems. The new SSCSSR Programme, as a continuation of previous SISP is a proof of confidence to the persistent work of experts engaged in social security field in South Eastern European countries. It is specially important that the need for coordination is supported even at a political level by signing Zagreb and Tirana Declarations. The new SSCSSR programme is designed according to proposals and needs of the beneficiary countries even more than the previous programme.

He expressed his warmest gratitude to the Council of Europe and the European Commission who recognise the need for reforms and even more efficient cooperation in the social policy area.

Mr. Milenko POPOVIĆ wished a lot of success to the new programme and the team that will implement it in cooperation with experts from the Beneficiary Parties.

Mr. Sixto MOLINA, Co-ordinator of Co-operation and Technical Assistance Programmes at the Central Division of the Directorate General III - Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe shortly presented the new Programme. He mentioned that the new Programme is the continuation of the previous SISP. He thanked Mr. Milenko POPOVIĆ and the Croatian authorities for hosting the meeting and Mrs. Kristina HERCEG, the Local Programme Officer for Croatia, for her valuable input and efforts in organising the activity.

He mentioned, that SISP was a very ambitious programme and some of the originally planned activities were not able to be organised. That being said, without any doubt the first programme has played a very important role. Apart from direct results achieved, one of the most important outcome is the creation of a network as for discussion and to exchanges of views between the beneficiary parties to the Programme. Thanks to the SISP Programme, the beneficiary parties to the Second Programme under IPA are in a position to examined in a more detailed way, the areas where changes/improvements are needed to further advance, as far as social security issues is concerned, towards European Union integration.

SSCSSR Programme will be more focused on obtaining tangible results. Mr. Sixto MOLINA expressed the hope, that at the Ministerial Conference in the end of 2010 we could prove that significant changes have been achieved.

He also encouraged everyone to share knowledge and to let the Secretariat know what the programme could do for their respective Beneficiary Parties.

In the end of his introduction Mr. Sixto MOLINA thanked all the participants including the observers and the representatives of the academic staff for their presence.

Following the traditions of the Regional Steering Committee and article 7 of the Terms of Reference, the floor was given to the Albanian delegate, Mrs. Dajana BERISHA, the Head of Department for International Relations and Projects of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, to chair the meeting. It was decided, that Committee meetings will be chaired by the members of the Committee in alphabetical order.

The draft agenda of the meeting was accepted without discussion.

2. Introduction Session

Mrs. Dajana BERISHA welcomed the participants and started the introduction session. She introduced herself and passed the floor to the next participant.

After the tour de table, all participants (Steering Committee members, Local Programme Officers, Secretariat, Experts and Observers) introduced themselves and described shortly their positions and activities they are responsible for in their respective organisations.

Mrs. Snježana BALOKOVIĆ, the Head of the Department for Bilateral Cooperation in the Area of Social Security of the Pension Insurance Directorate of the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship of Croatia, also warmly welcomed the participants in Zagreb.

3. Presentations

Ms Patricia PENNETIER, Unit D4 – Western Balkans Programmes, DG Enlargement, the European Commission, presented the role and the main activities of the DG Enlargement. She mentioned that SISP programme of 2004 – 2007 was a first preparatory but positive phase. Though the objectives were ambitious, nevertheless the organisation of all the training events and their results can be seen as a success. At the end of the Programme it has become clear what are the next step to be taken. She underlined that the new Programme was designed taken into account the experience gained in the SISP Programme as well as comments and remarks of the Steering Committee members.

The new SSCSSR Programme is financed by IPA, a single and unified financial instrument for both candidate and pre-candidate countries. There is specific budget for each beneficiary party in IPA, but also a budget is available for regional programmes.

When it comes to the objectives and perspectives of the new Programme, it is worth mentioning that no duplication with the previous programme will happen. Of course the successful types of activities will be continued. Moreover, the Programme will be more pro-active in approximation of legislation in line with the EU standards. Also there will be more focus towards coordination among the Beneficiary Parties. The Programme needs more concrete results in terms of new drafts prepared and adopted and new agreements signed and ratified. Attention will be also paid to the sustainability of the results achieved.

Ms Patricia PENNETIER informed the participants that external monitoring company is contracted by the European Commission in order to monitor the Programme on six month basis.

She proposed to invite the representatives of DG Employment for the next time to give presentation on the negotiation process, activities of the Directorate etc. Candidate countries need to have leading roles in sharing their experience of negotiations.

In the end she stressed that the current SSCSSR Programme is in a way unique in the region and has to reach its goal. The network created and being maintained in the area is a proof that co-ordination is possible.

Mr. Sixto MOLINA presented the new SSCSSR Programme in details. The Presentation slides can be found in the Annex 1 to this Report.

Mr. Alexander KOSTANYAN, the Regional Programme Co-ordinator from the Council of Europe Regional Office in Skopje presented the newly created web page of the SSCSSR Programme. The web page is the main visibility tool of the Programme and is designed in way to be used as source of practical information. It is a dynamic tool that will be constantly updated. The URL address is www.coe.int/sscssr.

After the presentation participants made the following proposals: to include the link to the DG Enlargement (European Commission), to replace the link to the Stability Pact by the link to the Regional Cooperation Council (if the web page is already in function), to introduce a hit counter on the web page, to delete names of the claimants for the Speaking Days (in the activity Final Report and the appendix of the Inception Report), to include contact details of the Steering Committee members and their deputies on the Steering Committee page, to add new links to the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and the text of the EU Directive 1408. Another proposal was to put the web page address in the business cards of the staff (including Local Programme Officers).

All the proposals were accepted by the Secretariat. Changes will be introduced in the Web Page shortly after the meeting.

Mr. Kenichi HIROSE, Senior Social Security Specialist of the ILO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe made a presentation on Council of Europe and International Labour Office cooperation in the field of Social Security. The Presentation slides can be found in the Annex 2 to this Report.

Prof. Dr. Danny PIETERS, from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the European Institute of Social Security presented the academic side of the SSCSSR Programme. His presentation can be found in the Annex 3 to this Report.

4. Comments and presentation of priorities by Beneficiary Parties with regard to the SSCSSR Programme

After the presentations the Steering Committee members were invited to share their reactions, come up with comments and inform about the priorities with regard to the implementation of the Programme activities.

Albania

Regional cooperation is considered to be an important issue under the Copenhagen Criteria. The main priority is to improve human capacities. However, bringing national legislation into compliance with the EU requirements is still a challenge. Steps are obviously taken in this direction, thus Albania is currently in the process of developing appropriate national strategies. Work on drafting a new law on social security has recently started.

Though politically Albania is well positioned, there are some technical difficulties with regard to the implementation of the reforms, especially related to the human recourse capacities, therefore previous SISP and current SSCSSR Programmes have been and still are useful. Activities planned in the new programme will assist the country in its European integration process. The main priority is to increase human capacities.

Albania requested Speaking Days with Turkey. There is a bilateral agreement ratified between the two Beneficiary Parties.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a complex administrative structure. There is a number of institutions on different levels that are responsible for health and social security schemes. However, coordination of European integration issues is dealt at the state level. This structure results in certain difficulties for people to execute their social security rights, particularly in terms of mobility.

Next week Stabilisation and Association Agreement will be signed with the European Union. It will lead to the beginning of the legal approximation activities. This may imply changes of legislation, notable in the fields of social security and movement of people. Therefore the SSCSSR Programme is extremely important. New focus on healthcare is welcomed.

Priorities are capacity building, training of civil servants and fair representation of different institutions and different levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Programme activities. Another priority is technical expertise in approximation of legislation in line with the EU and CoE legal instruments. Healthcare is a complex issue, but the main priorities are access to healthcare and technical coordination in terms of free movement of persons.

Speaking Days requested are with Serbia and Croatia, in particular in the health area. Speaking Days with Slovenia (bilateral agreement has been recently ratified) are also needed.

Croatia

Coordination issues are important. There is a need to comply with the international law, therefore, social reforms and harmonisation with the *acquis communautaire* are necessary. The SSCSSR Programme will definitely contribute to this process. There are still things to be done concerning regional coordination and Croatia will do its best with this regard. The new programme is better designed and is more in accordance to the real needs of the Beneficiary Parties. This is a unique opportunity for gaining knowledge on EU regulations. Concrete guidelines and support is expected.

Study visits are important elements of the Programme. This allows to exchange best practices in coordination. Also the network established by the previous, SISP Programme was very useful and hopefully it will be maintained.

Preferences are: availability, financial sustainability and scope of benefits of healthcare, improving quality of social security sector, adequacy and financial sustainability of pensions. Political support was present during the implementation of SISP Programme, it will also remain for the new SSCSSR Programme.

“the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia“

Recently new laws have been adopted following two events of the previous SISP Programme under voluntary schemes and agency for supervision of fully funded pension insurance.

The priorities are equal access to healthcare and financial sources of healthcare and alternatives. In the pension field the priorities are financial sustainability of pension systems, affordable pensions, pensions in multinational context, data exchange, collection of contributions and atypical work (work flexibility and black/grey work).

Montenegro

Presentation of the current state of social security system was distributed in written form among the participants.

In October 2007 Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union was signed. Last week national strategy for integration has been adopted by the Government. Reforms are being implemented covering all the segments of the social security area.

Priorities in pensions are modification of pension systems, developing new pension schemes and financial sustainability of the system. Priorities in healthcare are new quality standards in providing health services, trainings to increase human capacities, financial sources, privatisation and health care for tourists.

Speaking days were requested with Slovenia (there is a huge need, however, no bilateral agreement is signed), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Croatia. Bilateral agreements are signed with all the Beneficiary Parties to the Programme, except for Albania.

Serbia

Pension reforms are being implemented. With the World Bank support, the central register of insured persons is being created.

Several proposals were made with regard to the further activities of the Programme. Due to the decentralisation of social security it might be useful to organise Speaking Days not in the capitals, but close to the borders or in the regions where most of the claimants are living. Also while organising pension trainings, more colleagues from the branches must be involved because their role is increasing as result of decentralisation processes.

Priorities are training on compulsory health insurance, as well as scope of benefits for voluntary insurance, contracts between health insurance fund and healthcare providing institutions, models of financing healthcare, participation in payment of health benefits, e-health (basic information, not training), EU regulation 1408, IT (with regard to standards and confidentiality issues), law on the protection of personal data, classical health training on medical services abroad, access to social rights and the European Social Charter (training or screening).

As for the Speaking Days, this model is appreciated and Speaking Days with the following Beneficiary Parties were requested: Croatia and Montenegro. Bilateral agreements do exist with both Beneficiary Parties.

Turkey

According to the data and projections on population, Turkey seems to have advantages though, it as well experiences problems in the employment and hence social security field such as unregistered employment and immigration within and to the Country from the region. As part of tackling with those problems Turkey has been reforming its social security system for the last 15 years aiming at striking a balance between the interests of the population and the capacity of the state. It is important to make international legal instruments signed and ratified work properly.

Priorities are financing pension systems and collection of premiums, improving non-contributory pension schemes such as social aid, guaranty pension as well as supplementary pension schemes (second pillar pension) and training on comparative social security systems.

5. Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee

The Draft Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee was distributed among its members in advance by the Regional Programme Office.

Prior to the discussion, the Secretariat received a request from Dr. Šerifa GODINJAK, the Head of Department for European Integration and International Co-operation, Sector for Health of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for an amendment that would allow the Beneficiary Parties where pensions and health related issues are dealt with by two different ministries, to bring the second participant to the Steering Committee meetings while the expenses to be covered by the Beneficiary Parties.

Prior to the discussion Mrs. Dajana BERISHA asked the Secretariat about the status of Kosovo in the new SSCSSR Programme. The Secretariat explained that “Kosovo under UN Resolution 1244” is a full Beneficiary Party of the Programme. The Secretariat also explained the technical reasons why there is no participant present at this current meeting.

The Committee discussed than the draft Terms of Reference article by article. During the discussion, several proposals were made by a number of delegates. In particular, it was proposed to insert the word “relevant” preceding the words “international organisations” in the item 3.B.v of the draft.

Mr Haluk ŞAHİN, the Expert of the General Directorate of External Relations and Services for Workers Abroad of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey proposed to

insert the text “based on views and/or proposals made by the Committee members, the Council of Europe and the European Commission” after the words “and other working documents” in the item 6.i.

All the amendments proposed were accepted by the Committee. The final text of the Terms of Reference can be seen in the Annex 4 to this report.

6. Dates and places of other meetings

With regard to the next round of Speaking Days, the Secretariat will analyse the requests and inform the Steering Committee members by email about the selection of Beneficiary Parties for the two Speaking Days remaining to be organised in 2008.

The Secretariat proposed to organise the Workshop on Data Exchange in Albania in October 2008. The Committee agreed on this proposal.

The Secretariat proposed to organise the Workshop on Health in Montenegro in November 2008. The Committee agreed on this proposal.

The Secretariat invited the Steering Committee members for their proposals with regard to the place of the next Steering Committee meeting to be organised in December 2008. After a short discussion, Ms. Slobodanka RADOJKO, Social Protection Inspector of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Serbia proposed to hold the next meeting of the Committee in Belgrade. The Committee agreed on this proposal.

7. Selection of topics for the Academic part of the Programme

Prof. Dr. Danny PIETERS presented detailed proposals with regard to the topics to be treated under priority by the Academic part of the Programme. The Committee exchanged its views and made comments. The Secretariat will send proposals by email to the Committee members for their final approval after the meeting.

8. Meeting of the Local Programme Officers

During the afternoon session of the Committee meeting, all Local Programme Officers had a separate meeting with the Secretariat (notably Ms. Tanja KALOVSKA, Programme Officer and Ms. Tatjana KOSTOVSKA, Programme Officer from the Council of Europe Regional Office in Skopje).

In the beginning of this meeting Mr. Sixto MOLINA was also present as the SSCSSR Programme Manager. After short welcoming remarks he briefly informed the Local Programme Officers about their main tasks and responsibilities during the implementation of the Programme in terms of:

- acting as liaison officers between the authorities of Beneficiary Parties and the Regional Programme Office in Skopje,;
- main tasks and responsibilities regarding the organisation of events and activities in their respective Beneficiary Parties;
- brief information about the Council of Europe rules and procedures.

During the rest of the meeting interactive discussion has taken place. Local Programme Officers were in more details informed by the Secretariat, about their role in the future organisation of the number of events that will take place until the end of 2008. Special emphasis was put on the Workshop on Data Exchange and Workshop on Health, as well as on the organisation of the Speaking Days.

The Secretariat explained in more details the policy of the Council of Europe for organising this type of events, as well as the financial rules and procedures that need to be respected during their engagement in the Programme.

Among other issues, the liaison role of the Local Programme Officers was also discussed. It was explained that they will need to be in permanent co-ordination with the Steering Committee members of their respective Beneficiary Parties, as well as with the Regional Programme Office in Skopje. This is an important issue also because in this way the Secretariat will be constantly updated on needs and requests by the Beneficiary Parties that can be realised through and within the Programme.

Local Programme Officers were also given the opportunity to raise questions and to ask for number of explanations related with their engagement in the Programme.

It was stated that the Secretariat will do its best to find a solution for difficulties that they might encounter during their work for the Programme. For this purpose, the Local Programme Officers will be supported by the Council of Europe field offices.

The Secretariat is currently working on the possibility of providing Local Programme Officers with access to local accounts in the Council of Europe field offices, as well as with developing a Forum on the web page, where the Secretariat and the Local Programme Officers will have access through a special account and that will serve for everyday communication, exchanging ideas and work together.



Council of Europe
European Commission



Conseil de l'Europe
Commission européenne

Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

First Steering Committee Meeting
Zagreb, 12 June 2008

Sixto MOLINA

1



Social Institutions Support Programme

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Creation of a Network
- Resolution of individual cases on social security coordination issues
- Training of civil servants and representatives of the civil society
- Drafting of National Reports and Regional Strategic Memorandum
- Political support
- Increase awareness of social security coordination related issues
- Publications/website

Sixto Molina

2



Social Institutions Support Programme

ACTIVITIES

- National Training Events
- Awareness Raising meetings
- Summer Schools
- Workshops
- Speaking days
- Drafting of reports and memoranda
- Organisation of Ministerial Conferences
- Publications



Social Institutions Support Programme

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- Financial instability
- Political instability/elections
- Foreign language capacity (notably civil servants)
- Limited number of persons working in the social security field
- Availability of civil servants to participate in event
- Side effects (over qualification of staff trained)
- Inadequacy of activities included in the Action Plan (focal points/libraries/IT data base systems, etc)
- Excessive number of objectives



Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms

INCEPTION PHASE

- Kick-Off meetings
- Nomination of Steering Committee Members
- Nomination of Local Programme Officers
- Appointment of a new Programme Coordinator
- Establishment of the new Team
- Creation of the new Website
- Organisation of meetings with potential partners
- Organisation of a meeting with the Academic Directors
- Organisation of the First Steering Committee meeting
- Organisation of an introductory meeting for Local Programme Officers



Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms

ACTION PLAN

- Priority areas
- Workshops (Health care, pensions and IT development)
- Summer Schools
- Speaking days
- Sets of Studies
- Compatibility studies
- Technical meetings
- Study Visit
- Steering Committee/State Secretary/Ministerial Meetings
- Additional areas to be covered

ANNEX A
ACTION PLAN - REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL SECURITY COORDINATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY REFORMS ON SOUTH EAST EUROPE (2008/2010)

2008											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
		Kick-off meetings		LPO appointment	Steering Committee (1)		Summer School (1)	Speaking day (2)	Workshop on data exchange (IT)	Speaking day (3)	Steering Committee (2)
			Speaking day (1)					8 set of studies	Workshop on Health care (1)		
2009											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Speaking day (4)	Workshop on Pensions (1)	Speaking day (5)		Speaking day (6)	Steering Committee (3)			Speaking day (7)	Workshop on Health care (2)	Speaking day (8)	Steering Committee (4)
		Compatibility study of national legislation (on the basis of the conclusions of the studies of September 2008)			Summer School (2)			8 legal analysis			Compatibility study of national legislation (on the basis of the conclusions of the legal analysis of September 2009)
2010											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Workshop or study tour	Speaking day (9)	Workshop on Pensions (2)	Speaking day (10)	Workshop on Health care (3)	Steering Committee (5)			Speaking day (11)	State Secretary	Speaking day (12)	
	8 set of studies			Compatibility study of national legislation (on the basis of the conclusions of the studies of February 2010)	Summer School (3)			Technical meeting on changes effectively introduced during the programme and recommendations		Ministerial Conference	



Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms

OBJECTIVES

- Two major objectives (pensions and health care)
- Adjustment of national legislation to EC requirements
- Identification of conflict/problematic areas / potential solutions
- Flexibility of the Programme
- Adoption of a Political Declaration
- Regional ownership

CoE and ILO cooperations in Social Security

1st Meeting of The Regional Steering Committee
12 June 2008, Zagreb, Croatia

Kenichi Hirose

Senior Specialist in Social Security
Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe
International Labour Organization, Budapest
Email: hirose@ilo.org



ILO's global mandate in Social Security

*Social Security is a core component
of ILO's Decent Work Agenda*

- Increase member States' capacity to develop policies focused on improving social security systems and extending social security coverage
- Improve member States' capacity to manage social security schemes and to implement policies focused on improving social security systems



ILO values and tools on social security (1)

- **International Labour Standards**
 - ◆ ILO Social Security Minimum Standards Convention (C.102)
- **Tripartism**
 - ◆ Emphasis in social dialogue
- **Technical assistance at the country level**
 - ◆ Policy advice based on research and analyses
 - ◆ Assistance in implementation
 - ◆ Policy guidance on the benefit package of privately-managed mandatory pension savings schemes
- **Advocacy**
 - ◆ Global campaign for social security and coverage for all



ILO values and tools on social security (2)

- **Capacity building in improving governance**
 - ◆ Strengthening tripartite governing boards
 - ◆ Collection of contributions
 - ◆ Strengthening administrative capacities
- **Global training initiatives**
 - ◆ A one-year Master's course in Social Protection Financing at Maastricht University
 - ◆ Standard courses offered by the International Training Centre in Turin
 - ◆ Pensions, Social health insurance, Financing, Extension of coverage
- **Knowledge management**
 - ◆ Social security databases
 - ◆ Simulation models
 - ◆ Internet-based learning platforms

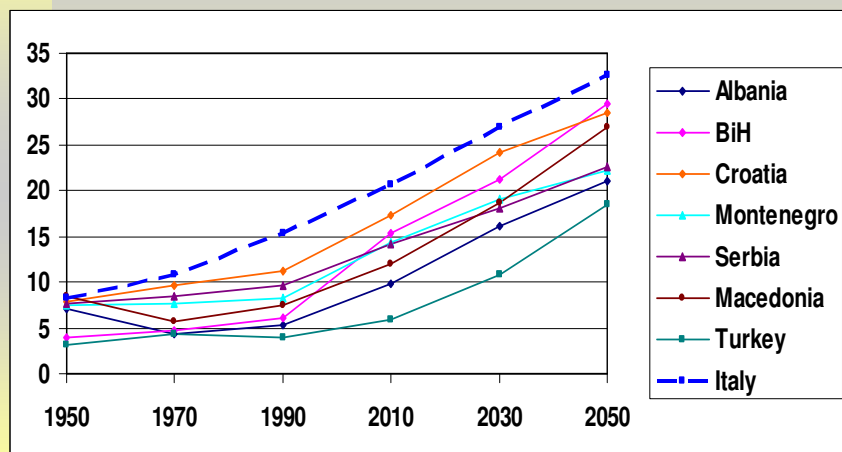


Challenges in Social Security in SEE countries: from ILO perspectives

- Impact of social expenditure on government finance and labour market
- Concerns with long-term sustainability in the ageing population
- Vulnerable to political interventions
- Non-compliance by informal work and underreporting of wages
- Complex and non-transparent policy making and decision making process



Percentage of population aged 65 years and over, 1950-2050



Source: United Nations 2006

Directions in Social Security Reform

- Objective of the reform:
Making the system sustainable in the long run while providing meaningful income at an affordable cost
- Choice from a wide range of policy options.
Learning best practices and lessons from experiences in EU and around the world.
- Well-informed social dialogue is critical in policy and decision making process



Challenges of social security coverage for migrant workers

- The greater flow of workers across national boundaries and more diverse forms of migration are creating new challenges, including lack of social security.
- To ensure the equality of treatment in social security for migrant workers, there is an emerging need for international and regional coordination, by multilateral and bilateral agreements.
- ILO Conventions and Recommendations
 - C.118 (1962), Equality of Treatment (Social Security)
 - C.157 (1982), Maintenance of Social Security Rights (R. 167, 1983)
 - C.165 (1987), Social Security (Seafarers) (Revised)
 - C.19 (1925), Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation)
- EU regulations
 - Regulations 1408/71/EEC (1971), 574/72/EEC
 - Regulation 859/2003/EC (2003) extends the provisions to third-country nationals



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Areas of CoE-ILO collaborations in Social Security: Way forward

- Participation of ILO high-level officials in Ministerial meetings
- Provide technical expertise in key project activities:
 - ◆ Workshops in Pensions and Health Care
 - ◆ Summer School on Social Security Coordination
 - ◆ Speaking days (as necessary)
- Provide technical inputs and comments on the plans for strategic reform in social protection system and on research reports
- Coordination in respect of:
 - ◆ Research and knowledge sharing
 - ◆ Decent Work Country Programme and ILO technical cooperation projects at the country level
 - ◆ Training courses organized by ILO and ILO-ITC-Turin
 - ◆ Network of regional experts



Thank you for your attention!

**For further information, please
visit our webpage at**

www.ilo.org/secsoc

www.ilo.org/budapest

www.itcilo.org



SSC SSR: the contents

prof.dr.Danny PIETERS &
prof.dr.Paul SCHOUKENS

- Our role: the academic side, i.e. the contents
- Not doing all:
 - ➔ An all-European team in constant formation!
Let us know about top experts you have experienced

What preceded : SISP

- the summer schools
- the regional and national strategic memoranda on the basis of earlier reports
- the speaking days
- national ad hoc assistance

SSC SSR: areas building upon what preceded and focusing on:

- Health Care
- Pensions
- + data exchange (to be explored)

- + determining one or two other areas of common regional interest

... starting now!

The focusing within the focuses:

- health care
- pensions

The determination of one or two additional areas of common interest

The main actions of SSC SSR

- The summer schools
- The work shop cascades (1+1+1) x 4 or 5 and related activities
- The speaking days + their follow-up

The summer schools

- In 2008, 2009 and 2010: a summer school
- multidisciplinary and multinational initiation in the general principles of social security, allowing the participants to understand better the regional and international reality in which they operate
- Diversity of participants: civil servants, administrators, trade unionists, employers, politicians, press, ...

The summer schools

The programme consists of:

4 COMPULSORY COURSES

- **Unit 1:** Basic principles of social security policy
- **Unit 2:** Social security comparison and social security systems in Europe
- **Unit 3:** International and European social security law
- **Unit 4:** Social security economics

1 out of 2 OPTIONAL COURSES

- **Unit 5:** Social Security Management and IT
- **Unit 6:** Social protection philosophy

Active participation in two SEMINARS

- **SEMINAR 1:** Co-ordination social security
- **SEMINAR 2:** Social policy: converging social security systems in the Balkan region

The summer schools

Please send in as soon as possible the application of candidates from your countries

for the 2008 session

to be held 2008: August 24th – September 5th

The work shops

- cascades (1+1+1) x 4 or 5 and related activities

- The work shops will deal with:
 - Health care
 - Pensions
 - Data exchange (at least first phase)
 - Area to be determined (one or two)

The work shops

For each following pattern:

- general work shop, setting the scene + stock taking
- national studies in order to deepen the topic
- specialist work shop to deepen sub-focuses
- regional memorandum
- restricted deciders work shop, to translate the conclusions into action

The speaking days + follow-up

- Speaking days to be held in the region
- Problems solving on the spot
- Report on cases, solved and pending + identification of main issues to be tackled
- All leading to regional memorandum on how to tackle the main identified problems

What to do here in Zagreb now?

- focusing in two focus areas, health care and pensions
- identifying on the basis of SISP results, one or two additional areas.

In order to do so, I shall try to present a framework for these choices, but of course each of you could add some additional aspects during the discussion hereafter

Determining the focuses or areas

Framework:

- The regional and national strategic memos
- The 5 selected national reports of SISP
- Stock taking of what has been done already in the region by others

- The relevant legal instruments of CoE, ILO and also European Union,
 - with special attention for the EU technical co-ordination and the EU open method of co-ordination in the fields of health care and pensions

Focuses in health care

Basis:

EU open method of co-ordination:
modernising the health care systems
in relation with:

- a. (equal) access to health care
- b. quality of the health care
- c. financial sustainability
- + d. EU technical co-ordination of health care /
free movement of goods and services

Focuses in health care

■ a. (Equal) access to health care for all

- whatever design of personal scope
- 'equal' but taking into account financial possibilities and choices of patients
- Bottle neck: illegal migrants

+ see d.

Focuses in health care

■ b. quality of the health care

- Comparative analysis + identifying best practices
- Patient rights (bill)
- The health care packages of the basic and the complementary (social) insurance

Focuses in health care

■ c. financial sustainability

- Adequate financing of health care and of the various health care actors: how much? for whom? What is European main stream (good) practice?
- Financing sources of health care system (alternatives)
- Privatisation as solution or as part of problem?
- ...

Focuses in health care

■ ./ c. financial sustainability

- Responsibilising the insured persons (through own contributions, choices, chaging fault and own responsibility)
- Responsibilising the health care insurers (through competition?)
- Responsibilising the health care providers (through competition? limitations on therapeutic freedom?)

Focuses in health care

■ d. health care abroad

- Free movement of goods, services and persons within the European Economic Area and its impact upon health care
- Health care for:
 - Tourists
 - Other persons temporarily staying
 - Legal immigrants and own emigrants (workers)
 - Illegal immigrants
- ...

Focuses in health care

■ ./ d. health care abroad

- Financial arrangements concerning the payment for health care abroad
- Assessing the real cost of medical care and the prohibition of discrimination

Focuses in pensions

Basis:

EU open method of co-ordination,
accepting diversity of approaches,
but identifying

3 common areas of concern for pensions:

- a. **adequacy** (=meeting the social objectives)
- b. **financial sustainability** (= financing pensions without negative economic impact)
- c. **modernisation** (= adapting to actual life and work reality)

+ d. EU technical co-ordination

Focuses in pensions

■ a. adequacy

- Prevent poverty and social exclusion in old age
- Access to pension arrangements allowing maintenance of living standard
- Promotion of inter-generational solidarity
 - Special concern for the transitional measures and discrimination against youth

Focuses in pensions

■ b. financial sustainability

- Raising over-all employment level and employment rate of older workers
 - but: important unemployment; important black, grey and non insured work)
- Ensuring sound public finances
 - or: at least reducing the danger the pensions will overburden the general budget of the state
- Striking a fair balance between the active and the retired
 - Special concern for legal protection of vested rights
- Make funded pension schemes sound and affordable
 - Special concern for take-up of non compulsory second and third pillar pension arrangement
 - Special concern for legal implications of compulsory funded arrangements with an element of choice

Focuses in pensions

■ c. modernisation

- Adapt to requirements of modern labour markets
- Adequate pensions for men and women
- Transparent and adaptable pension schemes

Focuses in pensions

■ d. pensions in a plurinational context

- organising pension payments abroad
- incoming pension payments and the assistance to pensioners to get their pensions from abroad
 - special attention for settling pensioners from EU
- no discrimination on basis of nationality
- Aggregation?
- Administrative co-operation, including co-operation in social inspection
 - With special attention for danger of 'phantom' pensioners

Determining additional areas

- The selected regional reports of SISP dealt with:
 - Bringing to the surface black and grey work
 - Securing social protection for farmers
 - The contribution collection
 - Information centers and one-stop-shop and
 - The mandatory character of 2nd pillar pension schemes and its consequences → see pensions

Determining additional areas

- The national strategic memoranda of SISP mainly dealt with:
 - social security governance
 - raising the work flexibility
 - the access to health care → see health care
 - the improvement of the legal framework
 - public communication and education
 - the functioning of the social assistance scheme and
 - issues related to migrant workers and cross border co-operation → see health care and pensions + speaking days

Determining additional areas

- Only one or two areas next to health care and pensions (+possibly data exchange) are to be selected still
- Systematising the earlier enumerated areas touched upon in SISP and taking into account the priorities of SSC SSR we come to the presentation of the following possible areas

Determining additional areas

1. **A-typical work and social protection,**
possibly including:
 - *work flexibility*
 - *self-employment*
 - *famers*
 - *black and grey work*
 - *posting (in and out)*

Determining additional areas

2. **Improving the quality of social security actors**, possibly including:

- *the structure of social security administration*
- *the hr management in social security administration*
- *the contribution collection and the management of social security finances*
- *the social security knowledge of competent judiciary*
- *the law making skills of political personnel and their staffs*

Determining additional areas

3. **Improving the relation citizen-social security**, possibly including:

- *setting up information points and one-stop shops*
- *improving the quality of public debate on social security, a.o. through initiatives towards the press and media and educational initiatives*

Determining additional areas

4. Migration within, to and from the region, possibly including:

- *developing and/or improving the co-ordination system between countries of the region*
(← *input also of speaking days*)
- *developing and/or improving the co-ordination between countries of the region and EU countries*
- *ex-pat-insurances for workers from the region*
- *the social insurance of tourists to the region*

What to do here in Zagreb now?

We would like to hear later from each delegation:

- which aspects within the focus health care they are considering most relevant;
- which aspects within the focus pensions they are considering most relevant;
- which additional area(s) they consider necessary to deepen in SSC SSR

What to do here in Zagreb now?

- On the basis of the results of your first statements, we shall work out a proposal which will then be submitted to the national authorities for their final agreement.
- If still some choices will be considered 'open' in this proposal a procedure will be set up to determine the choices.

Paul SCHOUKENS & Danny PIETERS
& the whole team remain

at your service!

For contacting the academic direction, please mail:

danny.pieters@law.kuleuven.be

or paul.schoukens@law.kuleuven.be



Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

IPA Regional Programme on Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms in South-East Europe

Steering Committee of the Joint EC-CoE Programme

Terms of Reference

Beneficiary Parties: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, "Kosovo under UN Resolution 1244", Montenegro, Serbia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey

1. Name of the Committee: Steering Committee of the IPA Regional Programme on Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms in South-East Europe (the Committee).

2. Type of the Committee: Steering Committee

The Committee is an independent body composed of the representatives appointed by the Beneficiary Parties involved in the IPA Regional Programme on Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms in South-East Europe (the Programme).

3. Composition of the Committee

3.A Members

i. Each Beneficiary Party is entitled to appoint one representative and one deputy representative to the Committee;

ii. The Programme budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses for one representative per Beneficiary Party;

iii. In case the representative is not able to attend the Committee meeting, the deputy representative will be consequently invited;

iv. Each Beneficiary Party may replace the representative and/or the deputy representative informing in due time and in written form the Programme Co-ordinator at the Regional Programme Office in Skopje.

3.B Participants

i. The Regional Programme Co-ordinator and, depending on the meetings agenda, key experts attached to the Programme will be present at the Committee meetings;

ii. The Council of Europe may send representatives to the meetings of the Committee;

iii. The European Commission may send representatives to the meetings of the Committee;

iv. The International Labour Office (ILO) may send representatives to the meetings of the Committee;

v. The Committee may invite representatives of other relevant international organisations to its meetings, depending on the agenda.

vi. Each Beneficiary Party may send second representative to the Committee meeting at its own expenses. The Regional Programme Office must be informed about this nomination in due time.

4. Main tasks of the Committee

- i. advising the Regional Programme Office, the Council of Europe and the European Commission on all matters regarding the content, the modus operandi and the progress of the Programme, either on the Committee's own initiative or at the request of the Council of Europe and/or the European Commission;
- ii. informing the relevant authorities and bodies in each Beneficiary Party regarding the activities, developments and plans of the Programme, as well as the progress in achieving the objectives of the Programme.

5. Meetings of the Committee

- i. The Committee will meet, in principle, twice a year. The Committee will, at the beginning of each year, determine its calendar of meetings for that year;
- ii. At the initiative of the Council of Europe or the European Commission or the Beneficiary Parties with the consent of the Council of Europe an extra-ordinary meeting of the Committee can be held if circumstances necessitate such a meeting.

6. Administrative support

- i. Prior to the Committee meetings the Regional Programme Office will prepare draft meeting programme and other working documents, based on views and/or proposals made by the Committee members, the Council of Europe and the European Commission.
- ii. A staff member of the Regional Programme Office will act as the Committee's administrative secretary. Draft meeting reports will be sent to the Committee members in four weeks after the meeting.

7. Working methods of the Committee

- i. The Committee, at its first meeting, will determine a roster, according to which the chair of the Committee will rotate amongst the Committee's members;
- ii. At the beginning of each meeting the Committee will approve the draft meeting programme proposed by the Regional Programme Office;
- iii. The working language of the Committee is English.

8. Duration

These terms of reference will come to an end on 30 November 2010.



Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

SSCSSR(2008)1RSCROGFIN

1st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

12th June 2008

Hotel Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Croatia
Meetings rooms Ban I and Ban II

MEETING PROGRAMME

Working language: English

THURSDAY, 12th JUNE 2008

09:00 – 09:15	Welcoming remarks Meting Room Ban I
09:00 – 09:05	Welcoming remarks and address by Mr Milenko POPOVIĆ Director of the Pension and Disability Insurance Directorate, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship
09:05 – 09:15	Address by Mr Sixto MOLINA Programme Manager, DG III – Social Cohesion, Council of Europe
09:15 – 09:50	Presentation of the Regional Steering Committee members and the Local Programme Officers
09:15 – 09:20	Address by the Albanian Delegation
09:20 – 09:25	Address by the Bosnian Delegation
09:25 – 09:30	Address by the Croatian Delegation
09:30 – 09:35	Address by the Macedonian Delegation
09:35 – 09:40	Address by the Montenegrin Delegation
09:40 – 09:45	Address by the Serbian Delegation
09:45 – 09:50	Address by the Turkish Delegation
09:50-10:10	IPA Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms Action Plan: presentation by Ms Patricia Penner, DG Enlargement, European Commission
10:10 – 10:55	IPA Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms Action Plan: presentation
10:10 – 10:40	Presentation by Mr Sixto Molina – SSC SSR Programme Manager, DG III - Council of Europe
10:40 – 10:55	Presentation of the Programme Web Page by Mr Aleksander Kostanyan – SSC SSR Programme Co-ordinator
10:55 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 11:30	CoE and ILO cooperations in Social Security by Mr Kenichi Hirose, LO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe
11:30 – 12:10	Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms: the Contents by Prof.Dr. Danny Pieters, KU Leuven, EISS

12:10 – 13:20	Comments from the Regional Steering Committee members in respect of the IPA Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms activities
12:10 – 12:20	Address by Ms Dajana Berisha, RSC member for Albania
12:20 – 12:30	Address by Dr Šerifa Godinjak, RSC member for Bosnia and Herzegovina
12:30 – 12:40	Address by Ms Snježana Baloković, RSC member for Croatia
12:40 – 12:50	Address by Ms Irena Risteska, RSC member for “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
12:50 – 13:00	Address by Ms Mileva Todorović, RSC member for Montenegro
13:00 – 13:10	Address by Ms Slobodanka Radojko, RSC member for Serbia
13:10 – 13:20	Address by Mr Haluk ŞAHİN RSC member for Turkey

13:20 – 14:30	Lunch Break
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After the Lunch Break two separate meetings will be organised:

- *Regional Steering Committee members will continue working in the meeting room Ban I*
- *Local Programme Officers will continue working in the meeting room Ban II*

14:30 – 16:00	General Discussion * for Regional Steering Committee members only Meeting Room Ban I
14:30 – 15:00	Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee
15:00 – 16:00	Organisation of Programme activities (speaking days, workshops on health and IT issues)

14:30 – 16:00	Briefing on procedures and working methods * for Local Programme Officers only Meeting room Ban II
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16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
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16:30 – 17:00	Conclusions, any other business, date and place of the next meeting Plenary session Meeting Room Ban I
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Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

AGENDA

(LPO meeting)

Thursday, 12 June 2008

1. Main tasks and responsibilities of the Local Programme Officers;
2. Liaison officers' role between the hub office in Skopje and national authorities;
3. Council of Europe rules and regulations regarding organisation of the activities;
4. Payment procedures;
5. Other issues.



Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

SSCSSR(2008)1RSCLOPFIN

1st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

12th June 2008

Hotel Dubrovnik, Zagreb
Croatia

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Working language: English

ALBANIA

Ms Dajana BERISHA

Head of Department for International Relations and Projects
Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Rruga "Kavajes" nr 1001
Tirana
Tel/Fax: + 355 42 22 79 42
E-mail: dberisha@mpcs.gov.al

Mr Aleksander PRENGA

Local Programme Officer for Albania
PO BOX 263/1
Tirana
Tel: + 355 68 20 81 067
Fax: + 355 42 25 64 41
E-mail: lpoalbania@gmail.com

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Dr Šerifa GODINJAK

Head of Department for European Integration and International Co-operation,
Sector for Health
Ministry of Civil Affairs
Trg BiH 1
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel: + 387 33 71 39 26
Fax: + 387 33 22 10 73
E-mail: serifa.godinjak@mcp.gov.ba

Ms Jadranka BARIĆ

Local Programme Officer for Bosnia and Herzegovina
Antuna Hangija 5
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel: +387 61 70 83 19
Fax: + 387 33 23 39 37
Email: lpobih@gmail.com

CROATIA

Mr Milenko POPOVIĆ

Director
Pension and Disability Insurance Directorate
Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
10 000 Zagreb
Tel: + 385 1 61 06 312
Fax: + 385 1 61 09 305
E-mail: milenko.popovic@mingorp.hr

Ms Snježana BALOKOVIĆ

Head of the Department for Bilateral Cooperation in the Area of Social Security
Pension Insurance Directorate
Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
10 000 Zagreb
Tel: + 385 1 610 63 77
Fax: + 385 1 610 93 05
E-mail: snjezana.balokovic@mingorp.hr

Ms Blanka MRŠIĆ

Expert Assistant
Social Welfare Directorate
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Ksaver, 202 a
10 000 Zagreb
Tel: + 385 14 60 76 85
Fax: + 385 14 69 84 97
E-mail: blanka.mrsic@mzss.hr

Ms Kristina HERCEG

Local Programme Officer for Croatia
Kajfešov brijeg 16
10 000 Zagreb
Tel: + 385 1 37 45 479
Fax: + 385 1 49 23 133
E-mail: lpocroatia@gmail.com

MONTENEGRO

Ms Mileva TODOROVIĆ

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare
Rimski trg 46
81 000 Podgorica
Tel: + 382 81 23 42 56
Fax: + 382 81 48 23 89
E-mail: mileva.todorovic@mn.yu

Mr Ivica IVANOVIĆ

Local Programme Officer for Montenegro
Skopska 60
81 000 Podgorica
Tel: + 382 69 87 77 77
Fax: + 382 81 611 346
E-mail: lpomontenegro@gmail.com

SERBIA

Ms Slobodanka RADOJKO

Social Protection Inspector
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Nemanjina 22-26
11 000 Belgrade
Tel/Fax: + 381 11 363 15 54
Fax: + 381 11 36 16 129
E-mail: boba.radojko@minrzs.sr.gov.yu

Mr Aleksandar DINIĆ

Local Programme Officer for Serbia
Kralja Bodina 2
11 000 Belgrade
Tel: + 381 63 66 44 95
Fax: + 381 11 26 81 252
E-mail: lposerbia.adinic@gmail.com

“THE FORMER YUGOLSAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”

Ms Irena RISTESKA

Head of Department for Pension and Disability Insurance
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Dame Gruev 14
1000 Skopje
Tel: + 389 2 3 10 64 41
Fax: + 389 2 3 22 04 08
E-mail: iristeska@mtsp.gov.mk

TURKEY

Mr Halûk ŞAHİN

Expert
Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey
General Directorate of External Relations and Services for Workers Abroad
İnönü Bulvarı 42
06100 Emek Ankara
Tel: +90 312 296 65 29; +90 312 212 14 72
Fax: + 90 312 215 23 12
E-mail: hsahin@csgb.gov.tr

EXPERTS

Prof. Dr. Danny PIETERS

KU Leuven EISS

Tiensestraat 41

3000 Leuven

Belgium

Tel: + 32 16 32 54 22

Fax: + 32 16 32 54 19

E-mail: danny.peters@law.kuleuven.be

OBSERVERS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Mr Kenichi HIROSE

Senior Social Security Specialist

ILO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SRO-Budapest)

Kossuth Lajos ter 11

H-1055 Budapest

Hungary

Tel: + 36 1 30 14 900

Fax: + 36 1 30 14 906

E-mail: hirose@ilo.org

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ms Patricia PENNETIER

DG Enlargement

Unit D4 – Western Balkans Programmes

Office CHAR 5/35

European Commission

Rue de la Loi 170

B - 1049 Brussels

Tel: + 32 2 296 33 92

Fax: + 32 2 295 41 64

E-mail: patricia.pennetier@ec.europa.eu

Ms Rima JOUJOU-DELJKIĆ

Task Manager Social Policy and Employment

Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Croatia

Trg žrtava fašizma 6

10 000 Zagreb

Croatia

Tel: + 385 1 48 96 500

Fax: + 385 1 48 96 555

E-mail: Rima.Joujou@ec.europa.eu

EPU-NTUA Monitoring Team for the Western Balkans and Turkey Region

Mr Panagiotis LEVENTIS

Monitor
EPU-NTUA Monitoring Team
for the Western Balkans and Turkey Region
Tel: +32 2 513 61 13
Fax: +32 2 513 06 39
E-mail : pleventis@romwbt.eu

SECRETARIAT

Council of Europe – DG III Social Cohesion

Mr Sixto MOLINA

Co-ordinator of Co-operation and Technical Assistance Programmes
Central Division
Directorate General III - Social Cohesion
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
Tel: + 33 3 88 41 35 92
Fax: + 33 3 88 41 27 18
E-mail: sixto.molina@coe.int

Mr Alexander KOSTANYAN

Regional Programme Co-ordinator
Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms
Council of Europe Regional Office in Skopje
Tel.: +389 2 3 222 856
Fax: +389 2 3 222 848
E-mail: alexander.kostanyan@coe.int

Ms Tanja KALOVSKA

Programme Officer
Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms
Regional Programme Office
Marshal Tito 33/2
MK-1000 Skopje
Tel: + 389 2 3 222 858
Fax: + 389 2 3 222 848
E-mail: tanja.kalovska@coe.int

Ms Tatjana KOSTOVSKA

Programme Officer
Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms
Regional Programme Office
Marshal Tito 33/2
MK-1000 Skopje
Tel: + 389 2 3 222 858
Fax: + 389 2 3 222 848
E-mail: tatjana.kostovska@coe.int