



“SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT PROGRAMME”

SISP(2007)3SS3InfoLeaf

3rd REGIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON SOCIAL SECURITY

27 May - 08 June 2007

INFORMATION LEAFLET

**Hotel Jadran
Donji Seget, Croatia**

Objectives

Many of the persons who start to work in social security administrations have got a mono-disciplinary education (law, economics, sociology, etc.); they often receive an in-house training in their specific field of activity but lack a general knowledge of the general principles shaping their work-field. Hence, the Summer School provides in a multidisciplinary way a first initiation in the general principles of social security. It allows the participants to understand better the theoretical framework in which they operate daily.

This training course deals with social security in its broadest sense, including cash benefit schemes, pensions and health care systems. The programme provides a general introduction into social protection from a legal, economic, sociological and administrative perspective. As well as being multi-disciplinary, the course is also multi-national. Throughout the courses, a strong comparative element is present. By providing the different approaches to social security that co-exist within Europe, the school will enable the participants to understand better the general principles that shape social security. They will be able to situate better their own system in the broad spectrum of social security systems. The programme also pays attention to the role of international bodies such as the European Union.

The staff of the programme is composed of social security professors from various European countries.

Programme

The Summer School consists of four compulsory courses, two optional courses (out of which one has to be chosen by the participants), and two compulsory seminars. All subject matters are taught in English. The units deal with:

- Basic principles of social security policy
- Social security comparison and social security systems in Europe
- International and European social security law
- Social security economics
- Social security management and IT
- Social protection philosophy

Two seminars integrate the various units around one or more central topics. One seminar will deal about the “*Co-ordination of social security systems in the Balkan*”, the other about “*Converging social policies in the Balkan*” Participants will have to prepare a presentation on a certain topic. Participation and presentation by the participants will be evaluated by the tutors; these evaluations will be part of the general evaluation of the participants.

A certificate will be presented to the participants who attended the classes and seminars on a regular basis; a diploma will be handed over to those who passed the evaluations successfully.

The programme for the edition 2007 of the Summer School has been provisionally set up in the following way:

Provisional time table

May	10.00-12.00	12.00-13.00	14.00-16.00	16.00-18.00
Sunday 27				OPENING
28	Unit 2	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 3
29	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 2	
30	Unit 3	<i>Intro optional courses</i>	Intro seminar 2	Intro seminar 2
31	Unit 4	Unit 4		
June				
1	Unit 4	Unit 4	Intro seminar 1	Intro seminar 1
2	<i>Unit 6</i>	<i>Unit 6</i>	<i>Unit 6</i>	
Sunday 3				
4	<i>Unit 5</i>	<i>Unit 6</i>	Reporting seminar 1	Reporting seminar 1
5	<i>Unit 5</i>	<i>Unit 5</i>	<i>Unit 5 (1h)</i>	
6	Reporting seminar 2	Reporting seminar 2	Reporting seminar 2 (1h) + Unit 3	Unit 3 (1h)
7				
8	MP-TEST			CLOSING

COMPULSORY COURSES

Unit 1: Basic principles of social security policy (Jos Berghman)

Unit 2: Social security comparison and social security systems in Europe (Danny Pieters)

Unit 3: International and European social security law (Paul Schoukens)

Unit 4: Social security economics (Tine Stanovnik)

OPTIONAL COURSES¹ (one to be chosen)

Unit 5: Social Security Management and IT (Steven Segaert)

Unit 6: Social protection philosophy (Gijs Vonk)

SEMINARS

SEMINAR 1:Co-ordination social security (with 4hours of intro by G. Strban)

SEMINAR 2: Social policy: converging social security systems in the Balkan region (with 4 hours introduction by D.Pieters and local participants)

¹ Composed of min. 10 participants and max. 20 participants for each optional course. As far as it is possible the course of their preference (1) will be allocated.

Course descriptions

Unit 1 *Basic principles of social security policy*; taught by prof. J. Berghman

The unit provides the participants with an introduction into the historic foundations of the social security systems and the common concepts used in social security language. It will give insight in possible techniques of social security provision and envisages creating a common discussion language for all participants.

The aim of the unit dealing with basic concepts is to make the participants understand the broader socio-political aims of social security instruments and to position the latter in their broader socio-economic setting. Main target of the unit is to provide the participants with insight into the multi-functionality of social security and in the multidisciplinary to approach this.

The unit on the basic techniques of social security deals with the following topics:

- the traditional approach to social security
- the search for basic determinants of social security developments (its origins and dissemination; typical national developments; evolution within countries)
- a typology of social security systems (basic techniques; types of benefits; social security systems)
- social security as an exponent of the industrial society; criticism of the traditional social security approach; coping with a changing context).

Literature (provided in the reading materials):

- J. BERGHMAN, "Basic concepts on social security in Europe", 23p.
- J. BERGHMAN, "The resurgence of poverty and the struggle against exclusion: a new challenge for social security in Europe?", *International social security review*, 1997, 2-21.

Unit 2 *Social security comparison and social security systems in Europe*, taught by prof. D. Pieters

In this course the students will be initiated into the principles behind (European) social security systems. Its objective is to provide a brief outline of the concepts and principles as well as the options and techniques present in the structures and development of any social security system. The introduction into social security entails the chalking out of an abstract frame in which each concrete social security system can be put into perspective. In this way systems can be more easily compared with each other. The course will also enable to provide the participants with examples of social security schemes as to be found in Europe.

In this unit the following topics will be discussed:

- the concept of social security
- the legal sources of social security
- the administration of social security
- the personal scope of application of social security schemes
- the risks and benefits (in general; old age; survivorship; incapacity to work; unemployment; family; health care care, and need)
- the financing of social security
- legal protection and law enforcement in social security

Literature (provided in the reading materials):

- D. PIETERS, *Social security: an introduction to the basic principles*, Kluwer, 2006, 137p. (1-109)
- D. PIETERS, *Recent Trends in Social Security in Europe: difficulties and answers*, Instituut Sociaal Recht, Leuven, 2005, 20p.

Unit 3 *International and European social security law*, taught by prof. P. Schoukens

The unit will make participants familiar with the legal concepts and reasoning of European social security law. Next to an introduction into the European Union, the Council of Europe and the ILO, their instruments and institutions, the unit will mainly focus upon the process of European integration and the consequences this may have for the national social security systems. The competencies that the Council of Europe, the ILO and the EU hold in the sphere of social security, as well as all relevant instruments of social security law will be examined here. All relevant European legislation on social security will be covered in the fields of both harmonisation and co-ordination. More precisely will be covered the standard setting conventions and social right conventions of the Council of Europe and the ILO, and in relation to the European Union, the social protection rules in the primary EU law, the directives on equal treatment of men and women in social security, the convergence recommendations and the technique of open method of co-ordination monitoring the debate on social exclusion and the modernisation of social protection. The unit will deal with question whether the ongoing process of integration requires (or not) further steps in the harmonisation of social security. Finally the unit will introduce briefly the basic co-ordination principles which are present across the various international and European social security instruments.

Literature (provided in the reading materials)

- J. NICKLESS, *European Code of Social Security – Short Guide*, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 2002, 137p. (9-49)
- S. VANSTEENKISTE and P. SCHOUKENS, *European Community competencies in the field of social security*, Reading Materials Master Programme Social Security and Europe, Instituut Sociaal Recht, Leuven, 2003-2004, 42-69.
- J. NICKLESS, *Equal treatment of men and women in social security*, Reading Materials Master Programme Social Security and Europe, Instituut Sociaal Recht, Leuven, 2000, 165-191.
- Legal materials

Unit 4 *Social security economics*, taught by prof. T. Stanovnik

This course has an introductory nature and is designed to give the participants a common, basic understanding of the way economics look at the phenomenon of social security. It analyses the relationship between economic policy and social security. More precisely, it will apply some general economic theories upon the social security area. The economic effects of social state interventions are examined as well as some key notions of the theory of consumer behaviour and the welfare economy. The effects of income transfers and services upon individual behaviour also included as well as some discussion on the balance between efficiency and equity. Capita selecta may be added in accordance with actuality.

Literature (provided in the reading materials)

- N. BARR; Economics of the welfare state, Oxford University Press, edition 2004.

Chapter 5: Economic theory 2: Insurance (page 102 to 120);

Chapter 9: Consumption smoothing: Old-age pensions (page 186 to 212);

Chapter 12: Health and health care (incomplete, only from 253 to 269).

Unit 5 *Aspects of social security management and IT*, taught by S. Segaert

The unit is composed of two parts. One will deal with the management of social security as such, the other is more focusing upon the practical application of informatisation techniques in the management of social security. The general theories and skills will be tested as to their applicability and significance in a social security environment. The quality assessment of social security administration as well as the phenomenon of management contracts between more autonomous social security agencies and public authorities will be highlighted. In the second part, trends in Information and Telecommunications Technologies will be highlighted, especially the ones that are relevant to social security policy and administration. It will assist readers identify innovative technological solutions and initiatives and the policies these are intended to support. It will also provide some ideas on future technological solutions that may emerge to facilitate future waves of change.

Literature (provided in the reading materials):

B. ZAGLMAYER, P. SCHOUKENS and D. PIETERS, *Cooperation between social security and tax agencies in Europe*, Washington, IBM The Business of Government, 2005, 18-25, 32, 34, 43-44, 36, 40-42 and 45-47 (www.businessofgovernment.org)

J. DEPREST and F. ROBBEN, *E-Government: the approach of the Belgian federal administration*, Brussels, June 2003 (www.ksz.fgov.be)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS OF ESTONIA,
Information technology in public administration of Estonia, yearbook 2004, Tallinn, 2005
(www.riso.ee/en/it2004en/)

Unit 6 *Social Protection Philosophy*, taught by prof. G. Vonk

This unit will concentrate on the values present in social security systems. Whereas other branches of philosophical thinking are already well developed, e.g. labour philosophy, social security philosophy is rather new. The course will therefore start with an examination of the meaning of the very concept of social security philosophy and give an overview of the main thinking in this area. Then the unit will concentrate upon the main values explicitly or implicitly present in the way social security systems are built up. The relationship between social security and some key concepts will be examined: these key concepts include: solidarity, subsidiarity, work ethics, responsibility and personal freedom.

Literature (provided in the reading materials):

- K. MARX and F. ENGELS, *The communist manifesto*
- Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on capital and labor, *Rerum novarum*
- W. KYMLICKA "Contemporary political philosophy: an introduction" Oxford University Press, 2001.

SEMINARS

Two seminars are planned. The Seminars should integrate the various units around one or more central topics. At the occasion of the seminars, participants will have to prepare a presentation on a certain topic (e.g. designing an optimal solution for a given problem). They will do so in multinational and multidisciplinary smaller groups.

Both seminars will start with an introduction (of 4 hours) by an expert into the concrete subject, respectively, prof. Strban for social security co-ordination and prof. Pieters for the converging of social policies.

SEMINAR 1: *Co-ordination of social security systems in the Balkan*

Tutored by prof. G. Strban

This seminar will deal with the technical issue of social security co-ordination. Practical social security problems caused by cross border movement and migration will be solved, by applying possible co-ordination techniques that are enshrined in the major European co-ordination instruments. A special focus will go to the typical cross border issues that arise in the Balkan area.

Literature (provided in the reading materials):

- P. SCHOUKENS, "Introduction to social security co-ordination in the EU", Instituut Sociaal Recht, Leuven, 2004, 61p.
- J. NICKLESS: *Co-ordination of social security in the Council of Europe – Short Guide*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2004, 5-105
- Legal materials

SEMINAR 2: *Converging social policies in the Balkan*

Tutored by prof. D. Pieters

This seminar will focus upon the national social security systems of the SISP-countries. The systems will be compared among each other; furthermore policy proposals will be developed by the participants in relation to specific policy problems that are common to the Balkan region. They should also be able to evaluate their system in the light of the European standards.

Literature (provided in the reading materials):

- Introduction into the social security system of Albania
- Introduction into the social security system of Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Introduction into the social security system of Croatia
- Introduction into the social security system of Kosovo
- Introduction into the social security system of Macedonia
- Introduction into the social security system of Serbia
- Introduction into the social security system of Montenegro

Documents prepared by the local project officers for the SISP-programme

Evaluation of the participant

The seminars are one of the components of the general evaluation of the participants. For the occasion of the seminar, participants will have to prepare an oral presentation in group on a defined topic. The introduction into the proceedings of the seminars and the distribution of the various topics will be done in the first week of the programme.

Besides the presentation in-group at the occasion of the seminars, an individual assessment (multiple choice test) covering the various units, will be organised as well. This double-assessment will allow us to have an outbalanced view on the general knowledge of the participants.

A certificate of attendance will be presented to the participants who followed the classes and seminars on a regular basis; persons who pass the evaluations successfully will receive a summer school diploma.

Practical Information

The opening of the programme will take place the evening of May 27 at 19.30.

Address: Hotel Jadran

Hrvatskih zrtava 147

21218 Seget Donji

Croatia

The classes will be held at Hotel Jadran

Staff of the programme

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Teaching staff:

- Prof. Jos Berghman (K.U. Leuven – European Institute of Social Security)
- Prof. Danny Pieters (K.U. Leuven – European Institute of Social Security)
- Prof. Paul Schoukens (K.U. Leuven – European Institute of Social Security)
- Prof. Tine Stanovnik (University of Ljubljana)
- Steven Segaert (e-Governance Academy Tallinn)
- Prof. Grega Strban (University of Ljubljana)
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Useful addresses

- Local coordination:

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(for information about the practical organisation of the programme)

- Academic coordination

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(for information about the academic organisation of the programme)

- Premises of the Summer School and Hotel

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